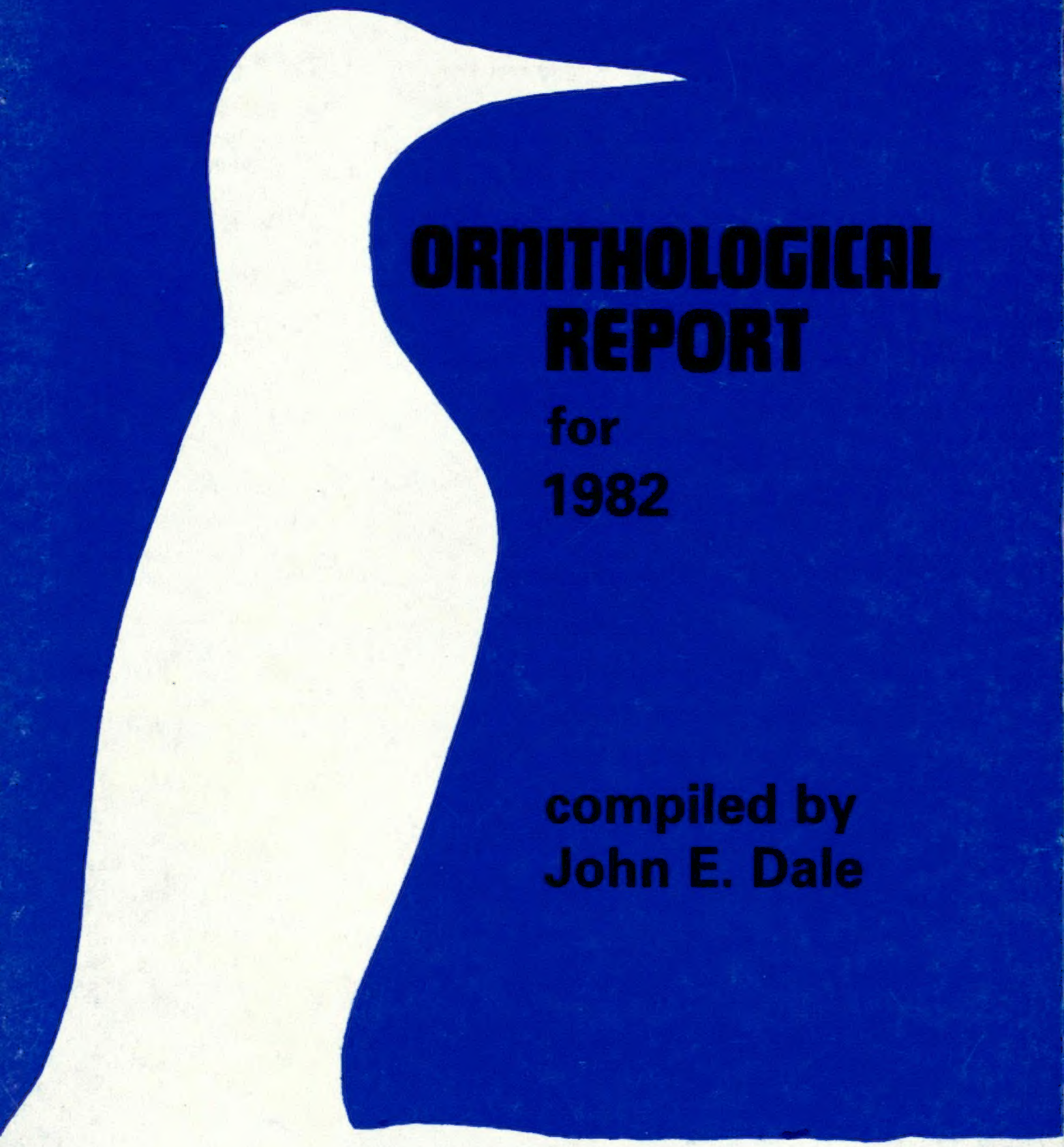
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

for

1982

compiled by

John E. Dale

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PRICE £1.75

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Report for 1982 Edited by John E. Dale

288 species were recorded in Yorkshire in 1982, a higher total than in recent years, and five of these were new to the County list.

A male Marmora's Warbler was at Mickleden Edge in South Yorkshire, on heather moorland, for over two months from 15th May. This was also the first recorded for Britain. On 4th June a male Sardinian Warbler was at the Warren at Spurn. Blacktoft Sands, which is fast becoming the outstanding site for rare waders in Yorkshire, had a brief visit from a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on 17th September. On 16th October a juvenile Great Spotted Cuckoo was found on the Humber bank south of Skeffling, and it remained in that general area including a visit to Spurn for at least three weeks. Finally, birdwatchers looking for a Great White Egret at Stone Creek on 27th November found a Green Heron, the first to be located in Britain for ninety-three years. This bird stayed until 6th December and was seen by several hundred observers before its departure.

Also included in this report are late records of two birds new to the County list that appeared in 1981, thus making the total of new species for that year to seven. An Eye-browed Thrush was watched for several days from 16th April at an Aldbrough farm near the coast. In late October a dead Eleonora's Falcon was found near Patrington, and fortunately the finder decided to have the specimen mounted, and Y.N.U. Recorders were able to examine it later in 1982.

As in 1981, 138 species were proved to have bred and this total included a pair of Black-necked Grebes, the first of this species to do so in the County for nearly thirty years. Four other species may have bred but full details are not available at present.

Occurrences of special interest are included in the brief chronological summary which follows.

The weather was quite severe in the first two weeks of January with cold easterlies from 6th to 17th, after which winds from the south and east brought about a thaw giving dull, but frost free conditions into February. Easterlies again gave frosty conditions in the third week of February, but a return to south-west winds gave warmer weather at the month-end. A White-billed Diver gave good views off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 3rd January. An obvious influx of Red-necked Grebes to coastal areas occurred during the cold spell and on 7th a Fulmar, picked up dead at Withernsea, proved to have the dimensions of the race *F.g. minor* from Greenland and the North West Atlantic. During these two months a large raft of Common Scotr which spent most of its time south of Bridlington, numbered up to 800, and a Surf Scoter was sighted off Filey Brigg on 24th January. On that date 185 Goosander were on Eccup Reservoir, the highest count yet at this water which is a favourite wintering place for this species. A Ring-billed Gull at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 11th February was the third County record, although an

earlier one is still under consideration. The first White-tailed Eagle to be recorded for thirty-four years was at Thorne Moors on 28th February and at Spurn on 1st March.

March was unsettled, with strong westerlies bringing cold fronts across the country for the first three weeks, but an anticyclone developed in the south resulting in warmer conditions at the month-end. Much of April was dominated by anticyclonic conditions and generally remained dry and settled, although at the month-end westerlies returned, bringing some rain.

Little of outstanding note took place during these two months and first arrival dates for migrants were average, but the major influxes of several species were delayed until mid-May.

Cool northerly and westerly winds, quite strong at times, continued to 9th May when a high pressure built up on the continent, and a strong southerly air stream became established, bringing warmer weather up to the 20th. This was followed by a pressure drop to the east, and a return of west winds, bringing cooler, wetter conditions.

At the time of the discovery of the Marmora's Warbler other obvious overshooting migrants were a Purple Heron on 14th; a Red-footed Falcon on 15th; a Kentish Plover on 16th; and a Lesser Grey Shrike and a Bee-eater on 18th, with another Bee-eater on 20th. Also towards late May a Red-throated Pipit was at Spurn on 19th, a Spotted Sandpiper at Wath and a Collared Pratincole at Spurn on 30th.

For the first week of June, with an anticyclone to the east, warm dry air from the south up to 9th produced a few more overshooting migrants, particularly near Spurn, with a Marsh Warbler on 3rd; the Sardinian Warbler, and on 12th a Short-toed Lark. A Caspian Tern was off Filey on 4th and several Spoonbills appeared early in the month.

During the remainder of June the high pressure settled in the north, and depressions came from the west bringing cooler air, frequent thunderstorms and rain, resulting in an exceptionally wet June, which was detrimental to the breeding success of many species. Blacktoft Sands had a Red-necked Phalarope on 20th, and a Caspian Tern on 24th June.

With high pressure in the Atlantic there were cool north-westerlies in the first week of July, but the latter half of the month was dominated by an anticyclone over the country which gradually moved west giving fine warm conditions into early August, with some light winds from the north-east. Depressions to the north of Scotland with an anticyclone over the Azores brought winds varying from south-west to north-west, strong at times with periods of rain, up to 25th August.

Unexpected rarities during July included two terns off Flamborough, a Gull-billed on 10th, and a Whiskered on 23rd. 1st August was an early date for an Icterine Warbler at Spurn, and a Serin was at Easington on the same day. Seabird passage at the coastal watch-points was not exceptional, with counts of shearwater and skua species being no more than average although Spurn had a record count of Manx Shearwaters on 31st.

For the first eight days of September high pressure to the south maintained westerly conditions, although on 5th, a small depression over England gave strong south-east winds. Flamborough had a Lesser Golden Plover of the Asiatic race, and a Yellow-breasted Bunting on 5th, and in general there was a good fall of passerine migrants on 6th, including two Greenish Warblers at Spurn, and good numbers of Redstarts, Whinchats and Wheatears. A remarkable southerly passage, offshore, of Little Gulls took place between 24th September and 7th October, being mainly recorded from Filey and Flamborough, with a peak of 2,072 on 27th September off the latter headland, a record count for the county. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Broomhill Flash on 20th September was only the third record for the county. Finch flock sizes reported during the autumn were down in numbers, particularly those of Linnet, Redpoll and Siskin.

October was unsettled, with a depression from the West eventually becoming established over the North Sea, bringing winds from the north and north-east for several days up to 12th. On 15th a high pressure which had appeared earlier in the Atlantic declined, and fast-moving depressions from the west brought strong winds up to 20th, with calmer conditions to 30th. This was an excellent period for Siberian vagrants, with Pallas's Warblers in particular reaching record numbers. At least seventeen of this species occurred in the county from 9th onwards, and during the same period, three Radde's Warblers at Flamborough; a Booted Warbler at Scarborough; Yellow-browed Warblers, Richard's Pipits and Rustic Buntings (two) all at coastal localities, and another Radde's Warbler at Spurn on 30th. Sea watchers at Flamborough were rewarded on 9th October with sightings of White-billed Diver and Little Shearwater. Great Grey Shrikes were

more numerous than in recent years, and good numbers of Long-tailed Ducks appeard at coastal and inland sites. On 11th October Spurn had the first Parrot Crossbill of an invasion that was ultimately centred inland in the South Yorkshire and Derbyshire boundary areas of mixed coniferous woodlands. These birds drew considerable attention from birdwatchers right up to the year-end. In the midst of these birds from the east an immature Great Spotted Cuckoo was found near the Humber on 16th October.

During early November from 5th to 7th a striking movement of many species of wildfowl took place along the coast, and to a lesser extent at inland sites. Slightly more unusual were a total of six Cranes moving south in the Spurn area on 10th November. The highlight for birdwatchers at the end of the month was the appearance of the two rare herons, possibly both of American origin, at Stone Creek.

Strong westerlies dominated many days during November and there was considerable rainfall. The latter half of December also followed the same pattern of west winds bringing rain, but temperatures were generally above freezing, and the year ended with milder conditions. More Blackcaps than usual wintered in the county, but Chiffchaffs were less frequent. A record number of divers, mainly Red-throated, moved south off Spurn in the last few days of the year.

British Birds Rarities

The 1982 Classified List includes three records that were not accepted by the BBRC for publication. These were a Caspian Tern at Filey Brigg on 4th June, a Roller at Blacktoft Sands on 26th September, and two Parrot Crossbills at Lindley Reservoir from 25th November to 30th December. In the case of the first two records the BBRC were not entirely happy about the circumstances, which involved brief periods of observation, and rather long-distance views of the birds. Parrot Crossbills have proved both difficult to identify and to describe and the details submitted were not considered to be sufficiently precise to rule out the possibility of error. In all these cases the YNU Reports Committee felt fully justified in publishing these records on the basis of their close knowledge of the observers concerned, and evidence that was satisfactory allowing for the particular circumstances of the sightings.

The majority of the records from Flamborough Head have not yet been submitted to the BBRC for consideration. It is hoped that certain problems will be overcome so that these records may be ratified by the BBRC before the publication of the 1983 Report. The YNU Reports Committee have examined and accepted all these published records.

Recorder for vice-county 65, Brian Shorrock, resigned from his position at the end of 1982 having given ten years of conscientious service for which the YNU Ornithological Section and Reports Committee extend their grateful thanks. His place has been taken by Richard Temple, an experienced ornithologist from Northumberland, who has recently taken up a post in North Yorkshire. In future, records for V.C. 65 should be sent to R. Temple, 1 Garth Meadow, High Green, Catterick Village, North Yorkshire. Tel. Richmond 818186.

The Reports Committee wishes to acknowledge the support of the local recorders and the many observers throughout the county who have submitted information to the YNU.

I also wish to thank the vice-county recorders and other members of the committee for their assistance throughout the year.

John E. Dale, July 1984

Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers, and have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee where applicable, unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977.

The committee is grateful to N. A. Bell, D. Braithwaite and J. M. Pinder for their drawings.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Small numbers of up to six at many coastal watch points up to June, and from August to December.

Peak counts in the early months were generally lower than in 1981. During January, 227 at Flamborough on 3rd, and 136 on 16th; at Filey 62 south in an hour on 10th, and 180 on 17th; at Withernsea 98 south on 16th; at Barmston 109 on the sea on 24th (SCM), and 88 at Spurn on 3rd. Further north, Robin Hood's Bay had 42 on 23rd January, and 30 on 14th March, and 45 flew south at Whitby on 7th February (SML).

Spurn had 229 on 7th April and 120 on 8th, as well as the only July record, one on 23rd.

Birds in the higher counts at Spurn and Filey were submitted as being of diver species.

Autumn numbers were low except for 63 at Flamborough on 27th September, and 8th and 9th October; 86 south at Filey Brigg on 2nd October, and 71 on 6th, and 16 north at Scarborough on 7th November.

Exceptional numbers at Spurn from 26th to 31st December. On 26th, 212 were on the sea and flying north, and on 27th over 100 were on the sea. For the last four days many were on the sea, but the majority flew south, with totals of 150 on 28th, 390 on 29th, 382 on 30th, and 440 on 31st.

Six flew over Hornsea town centre towards the sea on 25th January, and one was on Hornsea Mere on 18th December. One at Pugney's G.P. on 6th November.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Singles in the early months, mostly only for one day, at Whitby, Cornelian Bay, Sandsend, Scarborough, Filey Brigg and Spurn, where there were three on 7th April, and more frequently at Flamborough, where ten flew north on 10th April (PAL *et al*).

The return commenced in late August, apart from a single at Flamborough on 13th June.

Present at Spurn on at least 34 days from 24th August with from one to four, plus six on 13th September, five on 6th November, and 12 on 26th December. Maxima elsewhere of three at Barmston on 25th September (SML), and 14th November (KR); of 11 at Flamborough on 7th October, seven on 8th October, and five on 26th December, and in Bridlington North Bay 12 on 6th, and four on 7th November. Singles at Scarborough, Filey Brigg, Atwick, Hornsea, Grimston and Easington, and two at Tunstall on 11th December.

Inland, one at Thrybergh Res. on 3rd May (SHH *et al*) and one at Tophill Low Res. on 30th December (RL).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Singles during January at South Bay, Scarborough on 2nd (RHA), and Spurn on 3rd, and Atwick on 22nd (WFC), and during February at Flamborough on 14th and 21st (PAL), and at Barmston on 25th (BA). One at Cornelian Bay on 7th (JED), and during April singles at Flamborough on 9th, 10th and 17th, and two on 11th, and at Spurn on 19th.

Flamborough also had singles on 2nd, 9th, 27th and 29th May, and 13th June.

During the autumn one at Flamborough on 5th September, where five flew south on 22nd (PAD), and singles south at Spurn on 20th September, 29th October and 27th November, and

two on 6th November. Moving north during October singles at Filey Brigg on 8th and 14th plus two on 9th, and two at Scarborough on 10th. Two in Bridlington North Bay on 6th November (DIMW) and singles at Filey and Scarborough on 7th (RHA).

All the December sightings were at Flamborough with one on 5th and 12th, two on 18th, and one on 19th.

Inland, singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 7th November (PJC *et al*); at Thrybergh Tip from 5th to 27th November (JPS *et al*); at Ardsley Res. from 17th November to 4th December (PRE *et al*), and at Eccup Res. from 23rd November to 14th December (RCH, SPS *et al*). One at Thornton Steward Res. on 28th November and 5th December (DIF).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

An adult in North Bay, Scarborough on 3rd January (RHA, MW *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

An adult flew north at Flamborough Head on 9th October (AG, PAL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Bred in V.C. 61 at Hunmanby Gap, Everingham, near Tophill Low and at Welton Water. Present regularly during the last four months at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, and at Hornsea Mere, with maxima of nine during September on 23rd and 11th respectively, and 14 at Burstwick G.P. on 6th August.

Bred successfully in V.C. 62 at eight sites near Scarborough, and at six sites near York.

Occurred at 45 localities in V.C 63, breeding at over 20 of these. Widespread throughout the vice-county in lowland areas with some reports from upland sites. 23 at Wath Ings on 3rd April; 33 at Mickletown Ings on 9th August and 2nd October; 15 on Wentworth Lakes on 30th September; 22 at Thrybergh Tip on 17th October, and 18 at Wintersett Res. on 20th November.

Breeding numbers down in V.C. 64 following severe weather in January. 32 pairs bred at ten waters. 17 at Fairburn Ings during October, and 22 at Altofts on 26th September.

Six at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 11th September.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

The wintering area from Bridlington to Barmston held good numbers again. A total of 146 were north and south of Bridlington on 29th January (RHA), whilst off Fraisthorpe and Barmston counts included 187 on 24th January (PAD), 160 on 7th February (GED), 150 on 28th February (SCM), down to 36 on 2nd April (BS & SP), 55 on 27th November, and 120 on 5th December (KR). 18 at Flamborough on 10th January.

Bred at Hornsea Mere (two pairs), Scampston Lake and Welton Water in V.C. 61 and at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough, Castle Howard and Sand Hutton in V.C. 62. 28 at Castle Howard on 27th April.

Breeding success disappointing in some parts of V.C. 63 where at least 45 pairs occurred, and 58 young were recorded. 30 at Pugney's G.P. on 25th April, and 36 on 1st July; 21 at Wintersett Res. on 13th March, and 20 at Mickletown Ings on 18th April.

At least 39 pairs bred in V.C. 64, but success rates were low at many waters. 27 at Fairburn Ings on 19th March, and 22 at Swillington Ings on 17th May.

Three pairs present at Bolton-on-Swale G.P.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Singles at Scarborough, South Bay from 2nd to 9th January (RHA *et al*), and off the Marine Drive on 17th (GWF). One at Filey Brigg from 5th January to 13th March, with another there on several days during February, and five present on 16th January. Singles at Bridlington on 9th (DIMW), and Flamborough on 31st January, when two were at Reighton (KR). One at Flamborough on 14th February, and one found dead at Fraisthorpe on 28th (SCM).

Summer plumage individuals were in Filey Bay from 14th to 25th April, and on 28th August.

There were fewer along the coast in the autumn although Flamborough had singles on 26th and 29th September and 7th and 30th October, and Filey had one on 9th October and another from 21st October to 5th December. One on the sea at Barmston on 14th November (KR).

Inland, one at Tophill Low Res. on 6th February, and one in summer plumage on 11th June (HPRB). Two at Hornsea Mere on 27th September, and one to three present on many days to the year end (IJP *et al*). One at Chelker Res. on 21st February (PC, MC, MP). An immature at Wintersett Res. From 15th November to 5th December (SD, KD, PS *et al*).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

One on floodwater in the Ribble Valley near Settle on 6th January (BS), and one in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 7th February (JMD *et al*) were the only early records.

One at Hornsea Mere on 25th and 26th July (KR *et al*).

Singles at Tophill Low Res. from 28th August to 1st September (PWI *et al*); on the River Aire at Kellington on 19th and 20th September (CJH); at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th October (BA *et al*), and from 6th to 9th November (CH, JED *et al*); on Gouthwaite Res. on 7th November (AFGW), and at Hornsea Mere on 7th and 13th November, and 1st December (IJP).

The only autumn coastal records were singles at Flamborough on 27th September (PAL, PHS); in Scarborough South Bay on 4th December (SML), and in Filey Bay between 18th and 28th December.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

A pair bred in the county hatching two young, but only one successfully reared. The adults left the site during August, but the juvenile remained to 7th October.

One in summer plumage at Filey on 3rd April (HJW).

One at Hornsea Mere on 31st March and 1st April, and two or three daily from 23rd to 30th August (SML, IJP).

Fairburn Ings had an immature from 11th to 17th July and another from 6th to 8th September and an adult from 28th to 31st Occtober (GRW, JG, CW, SC *et al*). Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 11th to 23rd August and 5th to 13th September (MLD, JMP, JED *et al*).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Continues to breed successfully along the cliffs of North Yorkshire, and as far south as Flamborough Head. 247 chicks were counted on the reserve cliffs at Bempton in early August.

Peak days of movement past Flamborough included 2,895 on 30th and 2,250 on 31st January; 1,450 on 14th February, and 1,495 on 13th March. Much smaller numbers off Filey apart from 250 an hour passing the Brigg on 1st March.

At Spurn numbers throughout the year were much lower than usual, the maximum being only 163 on 5th September. The highest autumn and winter counts at Flamborough were 4,600 on 31st August; 2,500 on 29th November, and in December 7,200 on 11th, and 3,600 on 18th.

Four blue phase birds off Flamborough on 8th April (PAD).

Two blue phase were found oiled but alive on the beach at Withernsea on 7th January. One was taken into care, but died shortly afterwards. The measurements of this bird fell well within the range for the subspecies *F.g. minor* of the Northwest Atlantic. It would seem that birds of this race were in the North Sea off Yorkshire at that time (JRM).

Singles inland at Commondale west of Whitby on 6th May (MC); at Brookhouse Lake, Brighouse on 22nd May; at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th July (MLD), and at Fairburn Ings on 1st and 14th August.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

One flying south at Spurn on 10th July (NAB, JC *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Singles flying north at Flamborough on 10th July, 25th July and 16th August (PAL *et al*), and three also flying north on 22nd September (PAD).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Again a poor year for the passage of this species, with even fewer records than 1981.

The first were two on 31st July off Filey Brigg where numbers were quite low, the maximum being 11 on 25th August. Flamborough had maxima of 16 on 22nd August, then 24 on 28th and

71 on 31st; 34 on 6th September and 14 on 8th October. Generally only low single figures at Spurn apart from 14 on 21st August and 19 on 6th September, when four flew north at Scarborough.

Late records of one north at Spurn on 21st November and four at Flamborough on 18th December.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Early singles off Filey on 13th February and Spurn on 30th March, then Filey again on 29th April and 1st and 8th May, when eight passed Flamborough where 25 were counted on 28th May. Otherwise scattered small numbers at these places up to late July, when the main passage commenced, continuing up to early October.

At Filey 63 moved south on 25th July, and 58 on 31st, then 70 on 1st August, 71 on 15th, and 79 on 20th, with a peak here of 328 south on 6th September, and 116 on 2nd October. Flamborough had higher numbers particularly in August with 372 on 21st and 242 on 28th, and in September 236 on 5th, 156 on 11th, 173 on 13th and 164 on 25th with over 100 on at least two other days in each of these months. Numbers at Spurn were lower apart from 189 on 20th August, and record numbers of 839 on 31st August of which 725 moved north, and then 95 on 6th September.

Other counts of interest were 94 north at Scarborough in two hours on 2nd September, and nine north and 104 south there in four hours on 6th September.

Late records of 11 north at Grimston on 7th October; 17 north at Scarborough on 9th, and singles at Spurn on 26th October, and Flamborough on 2nd December.

Birds showing characteristics of the Balearic race *P.p. mauretanicus* at Spurn on 6th June; at Flamborough on 24th July, 21st August, 13th September, 8th October (three) and 14th October, and at Filey on 5th September and 2nd October.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

One flew north at Flamborough on 9th October (AMA, AG, PAL, DIMW, JMP *et al*).

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One found injured near the lighthouse at Spurn on 9th October died later. A fresh corpse found on the tideline at Flamborough on 10th December. One at Pugneys G.P. on 19th November was killed by a predator on 20th (IB, RPC, PS).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

One found in difficulties by Flamborough fishermen on 16th September was released on 19th (PAL, JMP), and another flew south there on 5th October (AMA).

One found alive with only one wing on the sea-shore at Spurn on 15th October.

Singles inland flew over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 25th September (PTT, RE *et al*), and over Ramsgill moving up Nidderdale on 10th October (KM).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

Counts from the cliff top at the Bempton colony revealed 375 pairs. The first chicks hatched on 24th May, and the total count was eventually 169.

Numbers at the coastal watch-points were low during the first six months, peaks being at Filey, 157 on 5th January and 170 on 12th April, and at Flamborough 800 on 14th February, and 685 on 13th June.

Autumn counts were much higher, particularly at Flamborough with 1,500 on 16th August and 2,460 on 31st; 4,200 on 5th and 2,400 on 6th September, and 1,000 on 8th October. Filey had 202 on 14th August and 135 south in an hour on 31st October. Maxima at Spurn included 159 on 31st August; 400 on 5th and 240 on 6th September and 224 on 6th October.

Inland, an adult flew south over Clifford near Aberford on 12th May; two juveniles flew east at Stone Creek on 19th September, and a juvenile was at Gouthwaite Res. on 17th October. An immature flew west over Blacktoft Sands on 5th September, and one was over Wombwell Ings on the same day, where another flew west on 22nd September.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Bred along cliff ledges north of Filey Brigg, with 45 there on 29th May, and 47 on 1st September.

Flamborough had a maximum of 80 on 26th September, and two of the continental race *P.c. sinensis* were present on 28th February.

Occurred on fresh water in V.C. 61 at Hornsea Mere, and Tophill Low Res. throughout the year. Maximum of 71 at Hornsea Mere on both 13th February and 13th December, with one of the race *P.c. sinensis* on the former date (SML, IJP). Tophill Low Res. had 22 on 22nd January, and 24 on 18th October.

There was the usual wide scatter of inland records covering every month of the year. These were usually singles, but parties of up to five occurred, and records peaked during spring and late autumn.

Bolton-on-Swale G.P. had up to 31, up to April, and from November. Eight west at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd May.

One of the race *P.c. sinensis* at Wheldrake Ings on 20th March (TMC), and one at Wath Ings on 4th April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Flamborough Head had by far the highest numbers with 150 on 7th February, and over 250 on many autumn days, including 537 on 27th September, 357 on 28th November, and 380 on 28th December.

The Filey area had over 70 during October and November.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

One near the 'canal zone' at Spurn on 7th January. Singles at inland sites during January were at Fairburn Ings on 4th, 17th and 18th (GRW, HJW *et al*); at Wath Ings from 20th to 24th (MF, JES *et al*), and at Blacktoft Sands on 25th. One found dead at Millfield Flash on 2nd February (JRS). One at Askham Bog on 15th February (TMC).

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 14th November (TB, AF), and at Hornsea Mere during the latter part of December (IJP).

Addition to the 1981 Report: One at Cayton Carrs on 22nd November (ABD *et al*).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

An immature at Stokesley from 16th September to 3rd October (CC, PS *et al*).

Addition to the 1978 Report: An adult at Graves Park Lakes from 3rd to 9th July (RPB, DH *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Green Heron *Butorides striatus*

One at Stone Creek from 27th November to 6th December (PTB, C & GF, AGR *et al*).

First record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

One at Stone Creek from 23rd to 30th November may actually have been present from about 13th November (KR, IF, MC *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

The heronry on the Lower Derwent held 11 pairs and breeding probably occurred near the confluence of the Rivers Wharfe and Ouse (YOC). At least ten occupied nests on 14th April at Kirkdale in V.C. 62. Three pairs reared seven young at Bretton Park. In V.C. 64 only four heronries were counted with at Bishop Monkton, four pairs; at North Stainley, six pairs; Dacre Banks, one pair, and at Gargrave, five pairs.

A number of localities had up to ten birds, with maxima at the end of the breeding season.

Larger concentrations included 17 at Lindley Res. on 13th January; 12 at Thorpe Marsh on

26th June; 23 at the Wath Ings and Broomhill Flash area on 11th July, where there were up to 19 during August. Castle Howard had 17 in June; 32 in July; 30 in August; 24 in September down to two in November. Over 20 at Farnley Lake on 12th August, and 15 at Bishops Monkton on 30th December.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

An adult between Thorpe Marsh Power Station and Barnby Dun on 4th May remained for five minutes before departing to the north-east (PHM). One at Southfield Res. on 26th August (TAE).

Addition to the 1981 Report: One at Seamer, Scarborough on 14th May (FAW, TE, FN). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Two adults flew south at Filey Brigg during the afternoon of 3rd June (S & MC), and two were on the Humber at Spurn on 4th June. Two adults at Blacktoft Sands from 4th to 7th June were observed carrying sticks and displaying, and a first year ringed in Holland on 5th July was at Blacktoft Sands on 20th and 21st October (AG *et al*). An adult flew west along the Humber shore at Skeffling on 19th October (ACa), and one was at Worsbrough on 20th (GL).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

The moulting flock at Hornsea Mere numbered 160 during July, and 66 wintered there during December.

35 were on the Lower Derwent on 28th February.

Nine corpses were found along the Pocklington Canal during the first quarter of the year (YOC).

The Aire Valley held good numbers throughout the year, with at Fairburn Ings, 67 in early January; a peak of 138 on 25th July during the moult, gradually declining to 43 at the year end; 41 at Mickletown Ings on 10th January, and 37 on 26th September, and at Swillington Ings, 54 on 31st January; 59 on 14th March, and 48 on 6th November. 20 at Thorpe Marsh on 31st May.

Only 15 pairs attempted to nest in V.C. 63 and most of these were unsuccessful. 55 at Altofts on 24th October.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Comparatively scarce throughout the county during the early months with maxima along the Lower Derwent of only 40 in January; 25 in February and 24 in March. From one to eight at ten places up to early March, the only higher numbers being 16 south-east over Spurn on 6th February; 50 north-east over Lindley Moor, Huddersfield on 25th; 36 at Broomhill Flash on 26th February; 11 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd March, and the last three north at Spurn on 25th March.

Records in the autumn from over 30 localities. Following arrivals at four places on 24th October, and four others by the end of the month, there was an obvious widespread movement (which also involved other species of wildfowl) from 5th to 9th November. This was of small numbers at many places, but also 28 at Blackmoorfoot Res., 35 west over Ingbirchworth, and ten at Spurn on 6th November; 25 at Gouthwaite on 7th, and 16 over Penistone on 9th.

Ten at Knotford Nook on 18th November, whilst the Lower Derwent had 23 in November, and up to 76 during December.

Other records during November included on 6th: 33 at Broomhead Res.; 45 at Wintersett Res., and 22 south-west over Strines; on 13th: 17 north-west over Hall Dike, Honley, and on 18th, 23 west at Blacktoft Sands.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

As with the preceding species numbers were low during the early months, and were no more than average at the year end.

Parties of from one to nine at 30 localities. A party of up to 14 were on flooded fields between Bewholme and Atwick up to 4th April; 25 were on the Lower Derwent during February, and 14 at Fisherman's Creek on 14th February. 18 in the Ribble Valley on 10th January, and the early

maximum at Fairburn Ings was 62 on 31st January. 35 on Swillington Ings on 6th March and 26 flew over High Batts on 23rd March. The last of spring were three at Wath Ings on 26th April.

The first to return were at Fairburn Ings on 19th October, and at four other places by the month end. Recorded at 20 localities, generally in parties of up to ten.

During November, 16 were briefly at Bretton Park on 9th, and 24 flew south then north over Muston on 24th. In December, 19 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 5th; 11 at Semerwater on 17th; and 17 on the Lower Derwent.

Fairburn Ings had 70 by late November, and increased to a peak of 102 by 25th December. Two 'resident' birds remained here throughout the year, and one that remained at Wheldrake Ings in 1981 regained the power of flight by the year end.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Three adults, which had been at Wheldrake Ings at the end of 1981, remained on the Lower Derwent throughout January (TB, TMC, AF). One south at Spurn on 21st January. Three at Sunk Island on 24th January (SML), and three at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 14th February (AC), and a single there on 7th March (TAE). Two at Ellerton on 14th February (GS, BC).

15 came into Wheldrake Ings from the north on 17th February; 11 departed shortly afterwards, but four remained all day (TB, RS). Thereafter one was seen regularly up to 13th April (DB, DW *et al*). Three at Hornsea Mere from 27th March to 12th April.

It seems probable that the three birds noted at four localities were the same individuals.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Numbers at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge built up during January to 740 on 22nd, and up to 1,100 on 2nd February, then a peak of 1,440 on 13th February, declining to 40 by 7th March (AC, TAE).

80 had returned to the refuge by 22nd September, and increased to 247 on the 25th, then fell to about 100, until an influx on 27th October brought numbers up to 600. After some fluctuation in early November these numbers remained fairly constant until the year end, when they increased to 800 on 28th and 1,000 on 31st December.

Small numbers occurred in many localities up to April and from November, usually in parties of less than ten, although 17 remained near Broadstones Res. from the 7th to 14th February.

An exceptional number of skeins moving across the county in both the early and late months, particularly over the southern parts of the Pennines, and the lowlands to the east. Those skeins reported as 'grey' geese are included where considered to be appropriate.

300 were at Allerton Park from 7th to 10th January, and during that month nine small skeins of 50 to 100 were reported, plus a total of 350 north-west over Agden and Strines in three skeins on 14th, and 130 (grey) over Harden on 30th. During February, the 14th was a day of westerly movement, with 115 each over Ringstone Edge and Royd Moor; 240 in three skeins over Strines; 100 each over Fairburn Ings and Swillington Ings, and of 'grey' geese 120 over Millhouses, and 225 in two skeins over the Rivelin Valley, plus at least five smaller skeins. 200 over Leeds on 15th February, and 100 south-east over Bentley on 8th March, 150 'grey' east at Queensbury on 6th March.

Regular movement from the upper Humber to feeding grounds south of the river observed from Blacktoft Sands including 250 on 14th February (maximum), and 100 on 7th March (the last).

Some coastal movement during October with 19 south at Scarborough on 6th, and 12 at Flamborough on 8th and 28 on 10th; and during November, 17 south at Scarborough on 6th; then at Spurn a total of 78 on 10th, and 132 south-east on 20th.

The first of autumn noted from Blacktoft Sands were 65 on 23rd September, and peak numbers passing were 450 on 11th November, and 540 on 28th December. 90 'grey' over Ewden on 16th October.

27 skeins of 40 to 200 birds during November, many of which were during periods of increased movement from 20th to 23rd and 28th to 30th. 500 'grey' geese west over Hawes on 2nd November. 220 east over Sprotbrough on 20th, and 300 on 22nd, and 300 west on 30th. 280 over

Kendray on 21st, 625 south-west over Ossett Spa S.F. on 22nd, and 260 north-west over Rother Valley Park on 28th.

Less activity during December with only eight skeins reported, all of less than 100 birds.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Three at Hornsea Mere on 3rd January, and two on 4th, and three on 7th and 14th February. Three at Barmston on 10th, and at Wheldrake Ings from 10th to 24th January. A single at Fairburn Ings from 20th to 30th January, and at Swillington Ings on 31st, in addition to the 'resident' which remained at Fairburn Ings all the year. One at Harewood Park during April, and on 17th June.

An immature at Wheldrake Ings from 12th to 16th May; on 8th June; from 19th to 21st September, and on 20th November; was at Castle Howard on 20th and 30th October.

On 9th October two came from the west over Thrybergh Res., and moved off north. One north at Spurn on 25th October, and three south-west on 6th November.

Seven at Gouthwaite Res. on 5th November; and one at Nosterfield on the same day was eventually joined by five more on 12th, and they all remained to 31st December. Four west over Fairburn Ings on 14th November.

Quite frequent during December with 12 feeding in a field west of Filey on 4th, where a further 19 appeared on 5th. 12 flew north-east at Hornsea on 5th, and 12 north at Filey on 6th. Nine at Barmston on 11th. Two each at Wheldrake Ings on 5th; Wharfe Ings on 24th; Ripon Race Course on 27th, and one on the Ribble near Settle on 27th. 16 to 20 fed at Hornsea Mere on dates from 14th to 24th December.

Nine at Durkar near Wakefield from 13th to 21st February, and two at Blacktoft Sands on 7th November.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Bred in V.C. 61 at Hornsea Mere (ten pairs, 20 young); Tophill Low Res. (three pairs, 13 young); Everingham (one pair, four young); Rise Park; Burton Constable; at several sites along the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal, and also in V.C. 62 at Castle Howard Lake.

Small numbers occurred at many localities throughout the county, and the species is becoming increasingly frequent particularly in V.C.s 61, 63 and 64.

Castle Howard Lake had regular monthly maxima of over 100, with peaks of 172 on 15th March, and 148 on 15th August. Higher numbers than previously at Hornsea Mere with 169 on 12th June; 234 on 23rd August and 416 on 11th September. Good numbers on the Lower Derwent, with the maximum 230 on 31st January, and 122 were at Wheldrake Ings on 14th November. 90 at Tophill Low Res. on 26th. September, and 120 at Everingham during the autumn. About 100 wintered at Bolton-on-Swale G.P., and 44 were there on 4th July.

On 30th October southerly movement of 45 at Filey; 54 at Flamborough, and seven at Spurn.

One showing the characteristics of the eastern race *A.a. rubirostris* at Hornsea Mere on 15th May (SML).

25 to 27 on the upper Humber from late July to mid September, and a number of small skeins moved over the southern and central parts of the Pennines, the largest being 90 west over Harthill Res. on 14th February; and 60 east over Sheffield Parkway on 13th December.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

A pair of blue phase were variously at Wheldrake Ings, Castle Howard and York University, from January to May, then at Castle Howard from June to 15th September, and at York University from 19th September to 30th October.

In addition, at Castle Howard an immature white phase from January to March, with an adult from February to March, and a single blue phase at Wheldrake Ings from 1st to 31st December.

In V.C. 64, a blue phase at Harewood Park until 14th May, and a blue phase and a white phase, either there or at Eccup Res., from 13th August onwards. In the Harrogate area, five white phase at Ripon on 24th May, with up to four from August onwards, and also two blue phase at Staveley on 12th August and 16th September. Two at Knotford Nook on 31st January.

All the above are published with the escape proviso.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Breeding recorded in all vice-counties except V.C. 65. Amongst sites not previously reported were 40 pairs on a private water east of Doncaster; seven pairs at sites near Halifax, and a pair at Seamer G.P., Scarborough.

Maximum counts at favoured sites were as follows: Lower Derwent 200 in January and February; Bretton Park 143 on 21st February; Hornsea Mere 161 on 21st. August; Castle Howard 249 on 30th August; Fairburn Ings 225 on 23rd August; the Eccup and Harewood areas 567 in September; Farnham and Staveley area 650 in September; Givendale 750 in November, and the Ribble Valley 250 in late December.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

High numbers regularly on Castle Howard Lake, with maxima of 51 on 7th March, and 53 on 18th December, undoubtedly originate from a free-flying flock of about 60 at Flamingo Park Zoo, which disperse in the winter and return in the spring, when a few pairs breed at the park (York OC).

Small numbers on the Lower Derwent, at Wheldrake Ings, Tophill Low Res. and Hornsea Mere may originate from the same source. 15 at Hornsea Mere up to 28th February, 22 on 4th July, and generally one to six from May onwards. One at Faxfleet on 21st February. Six at Flamborough on 25th April.

One caught at Gouthwaite Res. in July had been ringed at Washington in County Durham. One or two at seven places in V.C.s 63 and 64, mostly early and late in the year.

From four to 15 in the Eccup Res. and Harewood Park area all the year apart from 7th May, when six were at Swillington Ings.

Although many of the small parties were considered not to be wild birds, one at Broomhill Flash from 13th to 15th April had been ringed as a second-year male on Spitzbergen on 20th July 1981, and had wintered on the Solway Firth from October 1981 to February 1982.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

During the early months the flock on the Humber at Spurn peaked at 200 on 31st January; with 50 to 150 during February; 100 on 1st March, down to eight or nine from 20th to 23rd March, and the last one on 21st April.

On 10th January, seven at Cayton, one at Filey and 20 at Barmston. Six north at Filey on 24th January when eight were at Sunk Island. Two each during February at Withernsea on 5th; Barmston on 7th; Sunk Island on 14th; Filey Brigg on 23rd, where there were six on 19th.

The return to the Humber commenced with one on 28th September, with the first real influx on 9th October up to 54, and then 150 by the 11th. Numbers gradually increased to the autumn peak of 290 on 30th October, the maxima in the two subsequent months being 206 on 7th November, and 90 on 12th December. Few first-year birds in the early months, the most being seven out of 72 on 7th March, but there were large numbers in the autumn, the highest count being 90 out of 173 on 18th October.

Southerly passage at the coastal watch points on 5th October of eight at Filey (and 32 north); 20 at Flamborough and 55 at Spurn; on 5th November, 147 at Flamborough and 518 at Spurn; and on 6th November, 17 at Scarborough; 16 at Filey; 47 at Flamborough, and 29 at Hornsea. Smaller numbers at these sites to the year end plus 47 north at Hornsea on 29th November.

Inland, singles at Blacktoft Sands on 1st and 2nd October; at Tophill Low Res. on 6th November; at Thrybergh Tip on 7th (immature); and east at Bolton Common on 10th. Three (two immatures) at Pugney's G.P. on 7th November.

Birds of the pale-bellied race *B.b. horta* were three at Sunk Island on 24th January; one at Spurn from 20th to 22nd February; two at Flamborough on 7th November, and six on 26th December.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A pair at Wheldrake Ings from 17th to 26th August (DW, DB, TED), and two at Pugney's G.P. on 27th August (PS). Published with the escape proviso.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A further spread to new inland breeding sites, with numbers maintained at sites previously occupied. The sites reported which had successful breeding pairs were Bolton-on-Swale, Lissett, the River Hull valley, the north Humber shore, Lower Derwent Valley, Pocklington canal, York University, Blacktoft Sands, Whiteholme Res., the Ribble Valley near Settle, and the Harrogate area.

Widespread inland records throughout the year of small parties from one to eight at 35 localities. Larger parties included 44 on the Lower Derwent on 17th April; ten at Wintersett Res. on 5th May, where 12 flew west on 31st August; 14 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th July; 15 at Lower Gorple Res. on 10th and 17th July; 33 at Fairburn Ings on 4th August and 2nd October; 13 at Redmires Res. on 5th September and 25 on the 11th, and ten at Eccup Res. on 2nd October. Many of the birds inland during July and August were immatures. The highest counts at Blacktoft Sands were of 40 during March, 60 during April, and 70 in May and June, whilst passage inland here peaked at 254 on 11th September (AG).

The Humber Estuary count totalled 1,330 on 14th February, and 1,520 on 7th March (DBC). A large proportion of these were at Cherry Cob which had maxima of 790 on 24th January; 690 on 21st March; 1,150 on 18th July, and a low count of 320 on 3rd October. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had just under 200 at the end of February; 700 during July, and an autumn peak of 470 on 14th November.

Maxima moving east at Spurn were 128 on 3rd June; 214 on 25th July, and 108 on 1st August.

Southerly passage along the coast was moderate apart from 29th October with 256 at Spurn; 5th November 203 at Spurn; and on 6th November: 42 at Scarborough (in three hours), 74 at Filey, 168 at Flamborough, 53 at Hornsea and 167 at Spurn.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Bred at Wheldrake Ings with three pairs present, and broods of one and five in July, and at Grimwith Res. where a pair had at least two young on 17th July.

Occurred at over 40 inland waters both in the winter and autumn months with flocks of up to 40, being generally larger and more frequent during the September to November period.

1,250 at Blacktoft Sands on 16th January, and 140 during February, then smaller numbers up to April, one to three during May and singles in June and July with an increase in the autumn to 61 on 30th September, and 55 in November. About 450 at Bolton-on-Swale up to March and from September; 40 at Gargrave on 23rd January; 50 at Thornton Steward on 9th March; up to 250 in the Ribble Valley on 15th March and 27th December; 44 at Wath Ings on 6th September; and during November 83 at Gouthwaite Res.; 100 at Fairburn Ings on 6th; 55 on 24th and 40 on 27th at Potteric Carr.

As usual much higher numbers wintered in the east and along the Humber, but these were below the 1980 and 1981 peaks. On the Lower Derwent monthly maxima from January to April of 6,500, 4,400, 3,898 and 800 respectively, and 900 in November and 2,000 in December (YOC).

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had peaks of 2,300 on 5th January (AC); 1,213 on 25th September; 2,500 on 6th November, and 3,000 during December, although numbers were usually lower between these dates.

An Estuary count on 17th January of 4,750 included about 2,000 at Cherry Cob.

Hornsea Mere had 634 on 6th January and 493 on 6th December, and Tophill Low Res. had 500 on 23rd January and 263 on 9th December.

Coastal movement peaked in early October and early November with counts at regular watch points as follows: at Scarborough 163 north on 4th October, and 269 south in three hours on 6th November; at Filey 249 north on 3rd October, and 123 south on 6th November; at Flamborough 171 south on 5th, and 275 on 6th November, and at Spurn 313 south on 3rd October, 572 south on 29th October (when 120 flew east) and 622 south on 5th November.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

An immature male present in the Wath Ings and Broomhill Flash area from 5th March to 7th April (NWA, JH *et al*).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Three pairs bred at Tophill Low Res. (IF), and three broods were on Scampston Lake (HOB), and one on Everingham Lake (DIMW). In V.C. 64 breeding was not reported from any of the sites previously used. Pairs were present at eight localities during the spring, in various parts of the county, at which breeding did not take place.

Parties of up to six at 20 waters particularly in January and February, and from October to the year end. Present throughout the year at Hornsea Mere and the total of 228 on 15th November was the highest there for ten years (IJP). 36 at Tophill Low Res. on 11th January, and 24 on 17th October. 12 at Wheldrake Ings during March. 16 at Swillington Park on 29th September increased following an influx to over 50 on 1st October, and 44 remained to 28th November. A low maximum for Fairburn Ings of 23 on 24th October. Up to 15 at Potteric Carr during the last three months, and 16 on 21st November.

An exceptional number for Spurn of 39 flying south and six south-east on 29th October.

Teal *Anas crecca*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had rather a low early peak on 31st January of 300, but autumn numbers were exceptional as an influx on 8th September gave a total of 1,800 which increased to 2,300 by the 23rd, and 2,900 on 3rd October, then 3,163 on 17th October, which is the highest recorded count at this site. Numbers fell to 1,500 by 7th November and 500 by the 10th, and no more than 400 to the year end.

Some 12 localities held 100 to 400 in the early months, and 11 held similar numbers at the year end.

Higher maxima at several localities as listed below. The Lower Derwent had peaks in the first three months of 4,450, 4,000 and 1,661 respectively, and 550 during November. 770 at Tophill Low Res. on 18th September, and 520 on 29th December; 550 at Cherry Cob on 3rd October, and 701 at Hornsea Mere on 30th November. 507 at Gouthwaite Res. in October; 469 at Fairburn Ings on 6th, 476 at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th, and 400 at Potteric Carr on 27th November. 360 at Wath Ings on 1st December, and 500 at Nosterfield G.P. during that month. After only 120 at Blacktoft Sands in January, and about 75 remaining there during June and July, autumn numbers were substantial with 1,100 in September, 1,800 in October, 650 in November declining to 150 in December.

Bred in V.C. 63 at Deanhead Res., Black Moss, Redmires Res., and on the Howden and Hallam Moors.

Southerly coastal passage peaks included 25th September with 269 at Filey; 359 at Flamborough, and 537 at Spurn; then on 29th October, 1,388 passed Spurn; and on 5th November 408 at Flamborough, and 1,672 at Spurn, and finally on 6th November, 105 at Scarborough, 171 at Filey, 649 at Flamborough, 181 at Hornsea, and 461 at Spurn.

Birds showing the characteristics of the North American race *A.c. carolinensis* at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd May (PD, MS, KJA), 2nd and 11th October (KR, TR), and at Wheldrake Ings on 1st November and 7th with a second on the 8th (TB, TD).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

The largest flocks in the early months were on the Lower Derwent floods, with maxima from January to March of 6,500, 1,520 and 8,147 respectively, and a much lower year-end peak of 1,559 in December. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 2,000 in early January increasing to 3,980 on 23rd down to 2,000 by mid February, and then quickly down to below 1,000. An influx here on 6th November brought numbers up to 1,600, then 2,300 on 27th and 3,000 on 13th December (AC, LAM). Blacktoft Sands had 1,500 in September; Tophill Low Res. 1,027 on 7th November; Hornsea Mere 2,000 on 13th November, and Castle Howard Lake 1,022 during December.

Further west Fairburn Ings had maxima of 1,800 on 13th January and 2,600 on 12th September; Eccup Res. 1,451 on 31st January and 2,688 on 5th December, the highest ever at this reservoir; Harewood Park 1,600 on 17th October, and Potteric Carr 1,300 on 18th December. Five waters in V.C. 63 had 200 to 500 during January, and seven waters had similar numbers in November and December.

Southerly coastal passage was highest on 5th and 6th November, with 413 passing Spurn on 5th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Small parties of up to ten at 26 localities up to 21st April, and at 38 from late August, with a few isolated sightings between these dates including two at Blacktoft Sands on 14th May, then down to one from 17th June to 29th July.

The Lower Derwent had peaks of 78 in January; 60 in February, and 20 in December and 20 were at Wheldrake Ings on 28th September. Numbers usually low at Hornsea Mere apart from a flock of 31 from 3rd to 6th October. The Humber shore as usual held good numbers with peaks at Cherry Cob of 40 on 17th January, then 100 on 31st; 131 on 25th February; 100 on 7th March; 143 on 3rd and 120 on 17th October, and 100 on 14th November (SML, BS & SP). The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 43 on 9th February (AC), 102 on 30th September down to 47 by 13th November (LAM). 15 at Easington Lagoons on 2nd October.

13 at Blacktoft Sands on 25th August, and westerly movement there of 13 on 4th September, and 75 on 29th and 55 on 10th October, and similarly 115 inland over Faxfleet on 3rd October (TAE).

Coastal passage was generally light, but the arrival of 74 in off the sea over Spurn on 29th October is noteworthy.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A male at Tophill Low Res. on 4th March (RAR).

Three at Knotford Nook on 27th March, and pairs at Potteric Carr from 20th March to 7th April, and Wheldrake Ings from 27th to 29th March. A pair at Fairburn Ings from 30th March to the end of April, with the male remaining to 26th May. A pair at Bentley Common on 4th April, and at Thorpe Marsh from 9th April to 10th May, with the male remaining to the 8th June. At Wath Ings a pair that mated on the 21st April was present from 14th April to 1st June, and the male remained to 5th June.

One to two were present at 21 other waters on various dates from late April up to early August. Regularly at Fairburn Ings from late July to 5th September, with a maximum of four on 31st July, and at Wath Ings to 4th September, with up to three during August, and one to two on 12 dates at Tophill Low Res. up to 6th October.

Singles at Worsbrough Res. on 5th and 6th September, and at Blacktoft Sands from 5th to 13th October.

One south at Flamborough on 7th October.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

A male at Blacktoft Sands from 23rd September to 19th October (AG, CJ *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

The early maxima were mostly moderate and included 56 at Hornsea Mere on 13th January; 54 on the Lower Derwent during February, with a peak there of 150 during March, and 50 at Tophill Low Res. in January and February. 25 at Mickletown Ings on 6th March, and 30 at Fairburn Ings on 19th April.

Bred at Tophill Low Res., along the Lower Derwent and Pocklington canal, Fairburn Ings, Wath Ings, Denaby Ings, and Gouthwaite Res.

Small flocks of up to 20 at many waters particularly during September and October.

Regularly at Blacktoft Sands from late March with maxima of 14 on 26th June, and 17 on 29th August. 49 at Swillington Ings on 19th August, when there were 80 at Fairburn Ings, which had higher maxima of 146 on 24th September and 187 on 7th November. 26 on Castle Howard Lake on 21st September and 68 at Tophill Low Res. on the same day, with a peak of 117 on 17th October at the reservoir which declined to 20 in December. 70 at Denaby Ings on 18th, and 80 at Potteric Carr from 21st to 23rd October. 41 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 7th November, and 23 at Wath Ings on 28th. 109 at Hornsea Mere on 24th December.

The 29th October was the only significant day of coastal passage with 24 south at Filey and 172 south at Spurn.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

A first-year male at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th September (MLD); a male on 3rd October and a female on 31st at Fairburn Ings (CW, TB *et al*); a female at Potteric Carr from 9th to 11th October, and from 6th November to 2nd December (RJS, SB *et al*), and singles at Wheldrake Ings from 8th to 10th November (TB) and Hornsea Mere on 25th September, 3rd October and 6th November (SML, IJP).

Although it is probable that these birds were escapes it is of interest that some appearances coincided with wildfowl movements in early October and early November.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Bred at four sites in V.C. 64 at which 64 young were reared; two pairs bred at Sprotbrough Flash, and single pairs bred at Wheldrake Ings, Tophill Low Res., Scampston Lake, and Potteric Carr.

Numbers on the Lower Derwent peaked at 1,350 on 31st January during a brief deep flood, and then declined after that date. Most waters had their early maxima during February, including 240 at Tophill Low Res. on 15th; 266 at Fairburn Ings on 11th; 540 at Pugney's G.P. on 7th; 306 at Mickletown Ings on 10th; 217 at Swillington Ings on 13th, and 110 at Denaby Ings on 28th.

Higher numbers at most of these waters at the year end, with 639 at Pugney's G.P. on 1st November down to 361 on 1st December; 492 at Fairburn Ings on 10th October, and up to 300 in December; 173 at Wintersett Res. on 7th October; 400 at Tophill Low Res. on 11th October, where the December peak was 180; 638 at Hornsea Mere on 9th November; 237 at Mickletown Ings on 20th, and 256 at Hay-a-Park G.P. during November; whilst further north at Bolton-on-Swale there were 87 on 7th November.

Southerly coastal peaks on 29th October, of 243 in three and a half hours at Filey, and 293 at Spurn.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A male at Pebley Pond, near Harthill, on 9th February (DS, DHur). A male at Tophill Low Res. regularly up to 3rd April and from 7th November to the year end (BF, AL *et al*) and at a gravel pit near Brandesburton on 10th February (WFC).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A male at Mickletown Ings from 12th to 25th May and either there or at Allerton Bywater from 6th June to 9th August (BT, JM, DM, EK). One at Fairburn Ings on 11th July (SC), and a female on 30th July and 9th August (GRW). A male at Potteric Carr on 29th and 30th September (RJS, SB, JP). At Pugneys' G.P. an eclipse male from 3rd to 6th October (DP, PH *et al*), and a female on 20th November (PS*et al*). One at Pebley Pond on 19th December (DHur). Pebley Pond is on the Yorkshire and Derbyshire boundary.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Bred widely in the county including at least three sites in V.C. 61; eight sites in the York area; six sites in V.C. 63; and at least 53 pairs bred successfully in V.C. 64.

Maximum numbers at waters in many areas were lower than usual, particularly in V.C. 63.

Tophill Low Res. had 547 on 18th January, and still held 194 on 15th March. Fairburn Ings had 269 on 25th January, whilst only Nafferton Mere, the Lower Derwent, Mickletown Ings, and Swillington Ings had peaks of 120 to 230 during January and February.

Autumn numbers were higher with 471 at Fairburn Ings on 13th August; 326 at Hay-a-Park during October; 305 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th November, and 486 there on 9th December; 309 at Mickletown Ings on 20th November; 577 at Hornsea Mere on 24th November and 480 on 21st December; 217 at Pugneys' G.P. on 18th December, and autumn peaks of over 100 at Bolton-on-Swale, Nafferton and Wintersett.

Coastal passage included 36 south at Filey, and 165 south at Spurn on 29th October.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

A large flock on the Humber at Spurn had 180 on 23rd January and 3rd February, then no more than 79 after 13th February down to 20 on 5th March, with the last two on 9th May. Some passage at Spurn during the autumn but only single figures apart from ten on 29th October. Few noted elsewhere along the coast during the early months, the largest parties being five south at Filey on 4th June, and 12 south at Hornsea on 6th November (SML).

Inland, one to three at 26 localities in V.C.s 61, 63 and 64 with occurrences in all months. The only higher numbers were seven at Stone Creek on 18th July; 15 briefly at Ingbirchworth Res. on 6th November, and four at Wintersett Res. on 9th December.

An individual at Potteric Carr from 6th to 15th February which was superficially like a male Scaup was believed to be a hybrid.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Present off Flamborough Head for much of the year, with the exception of July to mid September, with peaks of 21 on 10th January and 24 on 10th April, and regularly off Filey Brigg, although only one was there up to mid April, but birds passing totalled 32 on 9th January, and 13 on 29th March.

Parties of more than ten at other places were 11 north at Hornsea on 9th January; 25 at Whitby on 7th February; and on the Humber at Spurn 13 on 6th March and 11 on 27th.

Ten were in Filey Bay on 20th July.

Autumn numbers were highest at Spurn, and included 25 north on 24th, and 12 south on 26th October; then 15 on the Humber on 8th November, and during December flocks flying north of 60 on 3rd, and 20 on 29th, and 16 south on 30th. Good numbers during November off Scarborough with 40 north on 6th and 26 north on 7th, and off Flamborough 28 on 5th, 42 on 6th and 23 on 7th, whilst Filey had peaks of 20 on 7th, and then 22 present regularly from 4th December to the year end.

One on Hornsea Mere on 9th January, and in the Humber two east at Sunk Island on 23rd May, and ten east at Thorngumbald lighthouse on 4th December. Further inland single females at Sprotbrough Flash from 8th to 14th November; south over Thrybergh Res. on 4th December; at Poppleton on the River Ouse on 29th, and at Hay-a-Park from 16th to 31st December.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Few noted along the coast in the early months, although up to two were in Filey Bay in January, and similarly one to two off Flamborough up to 18th March, and two north at Spurn on 20th February.

More frequent from October onwards with one to two at several places including Scarborough, Hunmanby, Barmston, Hornsea, and Withernsea plus three at Filey on 9th October, and seven on 16th November, and three each at Spurn on 26th October and Flamborough on 25th December.

Hornsea Mere had one regularly to 11th April, and two on 12th October, with others to the year end including eight on 10th November. One to two on Easington lagoons from 10th October with three from 20th to 27th November.

After one west over Fairburn on 22nd September, a quite exceptional autumn inland, with one at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 10th to 18th October; two at Stearsby, York from 27th October to the year end, and then singles in November at Tophill Low Res. from 9th to 29th; at Gouthwaite Res. from 13th to 28th, and at Riccall on 27th. At Swillington Ings one on 13th November, then five on 14th, four on 20th, three on 27th, and one on 4th December; at Mickletown Ings one on 28th November, and 5th and 27th December, and singles at Scout Dike Res. on 5th December, and Fly Flatts Res. on 9th and 14th December.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

A large flock that wintered in the bay south of Bridlington, usually off Fraisthorpe and Barmston, numbered 800 on 10th January and 7th February, and 600 on 26th January with lower counts between these dates, down to 270 on 27th March and 30 on 17th April. At the same time a flock of 300 wintered off Reighton, otherwise smaller numbers along the coast such as 62 at Whitby on 7th February, and 41 at Flamborough on 11th April.

Passage during July was typical with up to 59 in a day at Spurn; 111 north at Filey on 3rd, and 225 on 28th; and at Flamborough 144 on 23rd and 162 on 24th. At Spurn 109 on 30th August, and 105 on 29th October, and then 259 on 5th November. On the following day 255 north at Scarborough, 287 at Flamborough, and 400 at Spurn. 86 on the Humber at Spurn on 5th November; 54 off Whitby on 5th December, and 11 in Cornelian Bay on 11th December.

Four flew west up the Humber at Faxfleet and three similarly passed over Blacktoft Sands on 3rd January. Inland records at 17 places of one to four individuals between May and November mainly in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64. Larger parties of 34 west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 12th June; 11 on Castle Howard Lake on 20th June; 24 on Gouthwaite Res. on 24th June, where there were 15 on 28th July, and 6th November; and also flying west 20 over Orgreave, Sheffield on 18th July, and 40 over Queensbury on 3rd August. Ten on Silsden Res. on 27th June and 21 on Ringstone Edge Res. on 15th July.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

One off Filey Brigg on 24th January (SCM, PSM).
Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.
The third record for the county.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Reports along the coast from Scarborough to Spurn in all months, generally in small parties of up to three, with an increase in frequency during October and November. Higher numbers in January of four north at Hornsea on 9th (SML); 19 at Flamborough on 9th and ten on 10th (PAL); six at Barmston on 10th January (KR), and five on 7th March (JMD *et al*).

Eight north at Filey Brigg on 9th October; four south at Spurn on 29th October; seven south at Filey on 1st November, whilst two were in the Bay, and 12 south on 6th November.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Hornsea Mere had once again much higher numbers than any other water during the early months with a maximum of 228 on 29th March. Other high counts in the east were 54 at Tophill Low Res. on 27th February; 56 on the Lower Derwent on 14th March, and 58 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th March. Widely distributed on small and large waters in the western vice-counties, with seven or more regularly at nine waters in V.C. 63 including Pugney's G.P. which had 16 on four dates. Higher numbers in V.C. 64 with maxima of 28 at Givendale on 23rd January; 21 at Hay-a-Park in February; 42 at Fairburn Ings on 25th January; 19 at Gouthwaite Res. in March, and 21 at Swillington Ings on 20th March, and in V.C. 65, 24 at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th February.

Most had departed by 21st May, and although singles appeared on six waters in June, July and August, and a scattering arrived in early October, the main return commenced on 10th October. There was an obvious influx on 6th November when the maxima occurred at three sites with 105 on Hornsea Mere, 39 at Tophill Low Res. and 60 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. Other autumn maxima included 49 at Gouthwaite Res. in November, and 30 at Pugney's G.P. on 5th December.

Coastal passage was light in the early months, but early November was most interesting with passage mainly southerly noted at the regular watchpoints. On 5th November, 48 at Flamborough and 37 at Spurn; on 6th, 104 at Scarborough (in three hours); 60 at Filey; 89 at Flamborough; 55 at Hornsea (plus 23 north), and 62 at Spurn.

Two males and female at one site, and a female at another site, in the west of the county in late June.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Wheldake Ings had two males on 3rd January, a male and *redhead* on 10th, and the male on 11th and 23rd; and a *redhead* was at Aughton and Wheldrake Ings between 24th January and 27th February (TB, DW, TED *et al*). A *redhead* at Hornsea Mere in late 1981 was present on at least 11 days up to 16th March (IJP), and one was at Tophill Low Res. on 8th and 15th February (TR, PWI). A male on the River Don at Thrybergh on 23rd January (KJH) may be the one that

returned to the Ingbirchworth area on 24th, and remained to 21st March. A *redhead* at Fairburn Ings from 11th March to 17th April (GRW *et al*).

Single *redheads* at Hackness Lake on 29th October (WAC) and Wheldrake Ings on 5th December. On 5th November a male flew south at Flamborough (PAL), and a *redhead* south at Spurn. A male was at Hay-a-Park on 10th November (PAH), and one returned to Scout Dike and Ingbirchworth reservoirs on 13th November (JH, JED *et al*), and stayed to the year end. A male and a *redhead* at Pugney's G.P. on 2nd December (JB).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Small numbers, usually singles, at few coastal sites in the early months including in January, six in Scarborough South Bay on 20th and 24th, and four in North Bay on 25th, with five north at Filey on 29th. A displaying group of eight including three adult males in Cornelian Bay on 6th February.

Inland, singles at nine sites during the early months with the last at Wheldrake Ings on 14th April. During May a pair at Sunk Island on 9th; two west at Pugney's G.P. on 17th, and on the River Wharfe near Kilnsey on 20th. Two males and a female on the River Ribble between 28th April and 6th June. Two *redheads* on Thrybergh Res. on 23rd June, and two west at Blacktoft Sands on 26th.

Six at Filey on 28th July; three at Fairburn Ings on 15th August, and singles in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough and on the Humber at Spurn in late September.

Inland during the autumn, one to two at three sites in V.C.s 61 and 62. In V.C. 63 one to three at nine places with few remaining more than a day, plus five south-west at Wintersett Res. on 2nd October, and eight north-west from Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th November. V.C. 64 had one to five at four sites.

Eight at Filey on 2nd October, and seven on 5th, and 13 at Flamborough on 8th and 9th October. Coastal passage on 6th November of 12 south at Spurn, five south at Hornsea, 21 at Flamborough, and at Filey 12 north, and seven south. Also seven north at Scarborough on 9th October, and six in South Bay on 25th November.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

At least nine broods of young were seen on the Rivers Wharfe, Ribble and Ure, and breeding may also have taken place near Hawes where three pairs were on the Ure on 19th March.

Recorded at many inland waters throughout the county, usually in single figures, up to mid April and from mid October. Eccup Res. had a record count of 185 on 24th January, and 149 on 14th February down to 43 on 3rd April, and 12 on 8th May, with 62 on 30th December. Notable decline of the species at Hornsea Mere which had birds on only 11 days including seven on 27th February.

Other double-figure maxima were: Tophill Low Res. 11 on 10th January; 16 at Whitton Sands on 23rd; 47 at Leighton Res. in January; 17 at Ryther on 6th February; 20 at Wheldrake Ings on 14th March; 22 at Fairburn Ings from 21st February to 5th March; 48 at Hay-a-Park in March, and 14 at Oxton on 3rd April. 12 briefly at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th August.

December maxima of 19 at Hury Res.; 62 at Bishop Monkton, and 42 at Leighton Res.

Very little coastal passage with no more than three on any one day.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

A pair at Harewood Park from mid April reared five young which were first seen in September. Ten on 3rd October, and up to six present to mid December. Four males and three females present in the Mickletown Ings and Allerton Bywater areas from 17th April onwards, with two young reared at the former site, and three broods at the latter totalling 14 young, but one brood failed to fledge. One to five at Fairburn Ings between 5th June and 28th November.

On the River Don during January, one at Sprotbrough from 14th to 16th, and two at Thrybergh from 17th to 20th. One at Swillington Ings on 21st March; six at Gouthwaite Res. on 29th April, and three at Wheldrake Ings on 10th May. One at Bretton Park from 29th August to 14th September, and one at Wintersett Res. on 24th September. Up to six at Mickletown Ings during the autumn and two on 27th December.

One south offshore at Spurn on 17th October.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

One over Tophill Low Res. on 29th May (JL). One flying south over Spurn on 4th June alighted for a while before continuing south. One south-east over Woodlesford, Leeds on 25th August (PRG), and one south-east over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 13th September (PTT).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One flying south-south-east near Millington at 13.00 hours on 21st February (CR & ERB) was probably the same as one seen flying over Everthorpe at 14.40 hours (CAH).

Singles west at Harewood Park on 30th September (ECS, HRS); south then north at Spurn on 17th October, and over the M62 motorway near Ferrybridge on 16th November (LD).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

An immature on Thorne Moors on 28th February and 1st March (WHP, GS, ADW) was probably the same as the one first seen flying south offshore at Spurn which circled the Point and flew north over the Humber (AG & MEB, BS), also on 1st March. The first to be recorded in the county since 1948.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A female flying north-west over Osgodby, Scarborough at 11.00 hours (WAC) on 15th February, and at about the same time a similar bird flew south over Scalby (JW).

V.C. 61: An adult female at Wheldrake Ings on 8th and 9th April. Sightings during May totalled 20 bird days between the 8th and 28th at Cherry Cob, Tophill Low, Faxfleet, Hornsea Mere, Spurn (three south on 16th), Grimston, Kilnsea (two on 23rd), and in the Sunk Island area (four on 23rd). Singles at Spurn on 6th and 7th June, and one at Hornsea Mere on 30th.

A sub-adult male on the Lower Derwent from 6th July to 5th August. Singles between 19th August and 28th September on various dates at Lissett, Wheldrake, Cawood, Bempton, Spurn, Hornsea Mere (two on 12th and 13th September), Tophillill Low Res., and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. Late birds at the Refuge were a male on 4th October, and single *creamcrowns* between 6th and 19th November, and a *creamcrown* at Hornsea Mere on 12th November.

V.C. 63: A pair reared two young at Blacktoft Sands, and the female remained until 5th October. During the spring 15 other individuals visited Blacktoft Sands, and a further seven appeared during the autumn. Singles during August and September at Thrybergh, Wath, Potteric Carr, Howell Wood, and Harthill Res.

V.C. 64: Single *creamcrowns* at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 2nd May, and at Harrogate sewage farm on 5th.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

V.C. 61: Many present during both winters, particularly at coastal sites and along the Humber. Cowden Range had maxima of five on 22nd February and 28th December, with at least two up to early April, and from November. Nine between Goole and Faxfleet on 17th January and seven on 7th March, and three near Whitton Sands on 23rd January. Spurn had at least 12 bird days to March, and 45 from 13th October, with two birds on some November and December days.

V.C. 62: Single males at Cayton Carr on 8th March and Sherburn Carr on 14th November. Four in Bransdale on 27th December, and singles on other dates.

A pair reared three young in the vice-county.

V.C. 63: The Blacktoft Sands roost had ten from late January to late February, and a year-end maximum of eight on 25th December. Four at Harthill from January to March. Five on Thorne Moors on 3rd March. Nine over Howden Moors on 11th November. Four on Hatfield Moors in the early months, but only two at the year end. Singles at many other localities mainly up to April, and from October.

V.C. 64: The majority of records came from the upper dales and moorlands, but breeding was not recorded.

V.C. 65: One male near Tan Hill on 14th February.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Single males at Blacktoft Sands on 21st May, and near Lofthouse on 21st August (PS). A female flew south-west across the Humber from Sunk Island on 23rd May (SML).

Ringtails that may have been this species were at Flamborough on 9th May, and at Wath Ings on 4th July.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Breeding or probable breeding at sites in four of the vice-counties.

Elsewhere singles at Atwick on 18th January; at Follifoot on 24th January; at Everingham on 25th March; at Sewerby on 10th April; north over Fairburn Ings on 1st June; at Thrybergh Res. on 7th September; and during October at Flamborough on 9th, Malham Tarn on 13th, and Masham G.P. on 23rd.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

A healthy breeding situation reported from all parts of the county with indications of a continuing slow increase in every vice-county except V.C. 65 where the observer coverage is rather limited.

Four on Hatfield Moors in the early months, and up to five at the Helk's Gill Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* roost in the winter months. Some coastal passage in the autumn with six at Flamborough on three October dates.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

V.C. 61: Singles at Atwick on 16th and 20th January. One south at Grimston on 19th May. One at Spurn on 26th to 27th August, and three other singles on 23rd October; 6th and 7th November; and 9th and 15th November and 6th December. Singles south over Hornsea Mere on 15th November, and Filey on 20th. One at Flamborough from 7th November to the year end with another on 9th November.

V.C. 62: Singles over Marine Drive, Scarborough on 3rd January, and Scalby Mills on 10th April. One at Cloughton Bank on 8th August. One north-east over York University on 8th November. One at Hayburn Wyke on 12th and 13th December.

V.C. 63: Singles at Wentworth and Wadworth Carr on 14th February. Two at Beauchief on 29th March. Singles at Wilsic on 22nd May, and Wadworth Wood on 23rd. One at Agden on 10th June, and one north-east near Langsett on 20th. One near Strines on 11th and 17th July. Two over Mirfield on 1st August. One at Oughtibridge on 16th August. Singles on 6th November at Tickhill and Sprotbrough.

V.C. 64: One over Flasby Fell on 23rd January. Singles during April, over Headingley on 3rd; Gouthwaite Res. on 8th; Gledhow on 21st, and Knaresborough Ringing Station on 25th. One over Harrogate on 31st May, and one over Riccall on 6th June. Singles at Scar House on 3rd July, and Moughton on 8th August, after which up to four were in Upper Nidderdale to the year end. Singles at Cottingley on 1st October, and over Eccup Res. on 21st December. One at Parks Wood near Settle from 22nd October to 31st December.

V.C. 65: Singles at Muker on 13th and Walden on 25th March; at Richmond on 9th May; Ilton on 30th September, and Askrigg on 11th November.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

The only early record was of one south at Spurn on 23rd April which returned north later.

On 10th October one flew past Castle Hill, Scarborough (RHA, RNH *et al*), and there was an obvious influx during that month. On 12th, singles in off the sea, at Grimston (AWW), and Flamborough (PAL); and two off the sea at Spurn on 14th. On 15th singles south at Filey (MGR) and Flamborough (PAL) were undoubtedly the same; and also on 15th one south at Spurn, and singles at Easington (GED) and Welwick (DNB), may have been the same bird. Singles west over Blacktoft Sands on 26th October, and over Woolley Wood on 29th (JPS). Singles at Gouthwaite on 5th November (PJC, GWF), and Strines on 22nd December (JH). One wintered on the Yorkshire Wolds, and was noted in several localities during December (HOB, DIMW, T & VW).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

An immature near Holme Moss and Wessenden Head on 11th April (PDB, TM). An immature at Gouthwaite Res. from 28th to 31st December (AM, JEA, MGHG, AFGW).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One at Elsecar on 29th March, and one at Leighton Res. on 21st April (per RG). One on the River Idle at Haxey Grange on 7th May (DHur), and one south along the River Hull at Wilfholme on 16th (IBR). One on the River Hull at Driffield on 10th June eventually flew east (HOB). One in the Richmond to Grinton area of Swaledale from 9th to 13th May (AR *et al*). Singles south at Spurn on 28th May, and 15th August.

One at Gouthwaite Res. on 12th and 24th July (JSB, AMP). Singles south at Blacktoft Sands on 6th August and 2nd September, and east on 12th September. One at Flamborough on 1st August (AMA, JH), and one flew south across Wheldrake Ings on 12th September (BB).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Successful breeding of good populations reported from many parts of the county.

16 at Gouthwaite Res. on 14th August.

Pronounced coastal passage with 196 south at Flamborough in September, and 189 in October, with peak days of 34 on 6th September, and 30 on 13th October. 94 south at Spurn during September including 17 on 4th.

More than usual wintered in the Settle area feeding on the high vole population.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

A first-summer male at Potteric Carr from 15th May to 1st June (LD, RJS, NPW *et al*). One at Mickletown Ings on 15th May (BT).

An adult male at Fairburn Ings on 13th September (CW, PK, TG).

Addition to the 1981 Report: A male at Fairburn Ings on 7th June (TB, PK, CW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

V.C. 61: Singles at several coastal and estuarine sites in the early months up to the last at Spurn on 21st April. Up to two on occasional January and February dates at Flamborough, Atwick, Cowden, and Spurn.

Singles at Flamborough on 5th September and Filey on 6th, and two each near Skeffling on 23rd October, and Filey on 30th, and at Barmston on 13th November. Up to two at Spurn in October.

V.C. 62: Singles at four sites up to 11th March, and four in August and September.

V.C. 63: Singles at eight localities away from breeding areas in the early months, with two at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd January where there was one on 4th May, also one at Potteric Carr on 14th May. Present at nine localities in the autumn, again mostly singles, but two at Redmires Res. and Wath Ings on occasional dates, and three at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd September, and at Thrybergh on 15th November.

V.C. 64: Reported from lowland areas up to 11th April, and from 2nd August, all being solitary birds.

Three pairs known to have bred in the county.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

V.C. 61: Singles north at Spurn on 14th May; at Hornsea Mere on 15th (SML), and at Kilnsea on 30th May (JMT). Two on 5th June, and singles on 6th and 11th; then further singles on 18th August, and 1st September, all flew south at Spurn. Singles at Flamborough on 31st July, 20th and 21st August, 18th September, and 7th October (PAL *et al*). One at Wheldrake Ings on 30th September (TB), and at Tophill Low Res. on the same day, and a very late bird also at Tophill Low on 19th November (RL).

V.C. 62: One at Stearsby on 2nd August (PH).

V.C. 63: Singles at Kettlethorpe on 24th May (RPC), and Mickleden Beck on 29th (RW). One west at Carlton Marsh on 1st June (A & DS). One at Thorne on 20th July (ML). One in the

Treeton, Catcliffe and Parkway, Sheffield areas from 14th July to 13th August (PL *et al*). Singles at Wath Ings on 13th August (SR, CH), and at Thorpe Marsh on 22nd (KBS). One at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd and 8th September (AG); singles at Thrybergh on 7th (SJH); at Redmires on 11th (DH, PG), and at Shafton, Barnsley on 15th and 17th September (AW), and near Altofts on 4th (SPS, JAG).

V.C. 64: Fairburn Ings had singles on 23rd May (PK), 28th July, 7th, 9th, 14th and 16th August (JG, GRW, HJW) and 10th September (CW). Singles in the Ribble Valley on 1st June (BS), and at High Batts, Ripon on 14th (CS).

Addition to the 1981 Report: One at Goole Fields on 2nd May.

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*

Addition to the 1981 Report: One found dead at Elm Tree Farm, Patrington in late October by T. R. Greensides who has the preserved specimen. First record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

V.C. 61: Singles at Filey Brigg on 8th January and at Flamborough on 16th. One at Spurn on 4th April, and probably the same one again on 9th. One at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 11th September. Flamborough had singles on 6th, 10th and 14th October; two on 24th October; then singles on 7th, 13th and 30th November, and 2nd, 10th, 12th, and 18th December, at least three individuals being involved. One at Filey on 7th November, and one east at Muston on 1st December.

V.C. 62: One at Brompton on 28th November, and one at Fen Bog on 28th December.

V.C. 63: Singles at Broomhead on 3rd January; at Blacktoft on 11th February; at Ingbirchworth on 19th March and Broadhead Clough on 27th April. One at Fly Flatts Res. on 25th July. Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 27th and 28th August, and 12th and 18th September. Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 30th August; at Thrybergh on 7th; Bingley on 12th and Mexborough on 27th September; near Langsett on 31st October, and Norton on 22nd November.

V.C. 64: One at Briscoerigg on 13th February. Two in the Ribble Valley near Settle on 25th November. One at Knotford Nook on 16th December, and one at Harrogate on 31st.

Several pairs bred successfully in the county, although two young were taken from one nest.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Mixed success reported from moorland shoots in V.C. 64, with good totals of 300 brace shot on 28th and 30th August on the Swinton estates. Numbers appear to be maintained on the southern moorlands in V.C. 63.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Five on Hunter Bark near Settle on 13th January, and a pair on Steen Moor on 24th. Four at Langstrothdale on 27th March, and one on 27th July. Three at Brow Side on 20th April. One at Langrigg near Settle on 5th October. Two on moors near Gouthwaite Res. on 7th December.

Present on Feldom Moor, Swaledale in small numbers.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

A few moderate-sized coveys reported in the early months as follows: during January, 13 at Atwick; 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 14th; 21 at Fairburn Ings on 17th; eight at Charm Park, Scarborough on 18th, and 19 at Newfield Plantation on 9th. During February, 16 at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd; 22 at Wothersome, Bramham on 6th; 22 at Fairburn Ings on 11th, and 12 on 5th at Spurn.

Ones and twos at many localities near Scarborough, and in V.C.s 63 and 64.

97 at Langwith on 22nd August had probably just been released. 21 at Melbourne on 14th September. 24 at Thrybergh on 15th October; 33 on Hatfield Moors on 10th October, and 30 on 27th November. During December, 14 at Tinsley S.F. on 4th; 13 at Stillington on 5th, and 17 at North Duffield on 29th. 17 at Filey in early November.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

There is evidence of a decline in lowland localities around York, and the species may be decreasing in the Harrogate, Wharfedale and Settle areas. Numbers are also decreasing in parts of V.C. 63.

Coveys reported of more than 20 birds as follows: 27 at Thrybergh Res. on 8th January; 30 at Fairburn Ings on 9th, and at Burstwick G.P. on 24th; and 20 at Wath Ings during January. During October, 25 at Flamborough on 10th; 20 at Filey on 16th, and 20 at Wath Ings. 35 at Haverfield Ponds on 28th December.

A nest with 27 eggs at Atwick in mid-April.

A bird showing the characteristics of the rare *montana* morph at Sutton Common near York from late September to the year end, was in the company of normal individuals (TB).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Another good year for the species with the first on Hatfield Moor on 12th May. Three at Bubwith on 22nd May; singles calling at Staveley and Muston on 23rd, and at Sawdon during late May and June.

Two at Flamborough on 29th and 30th May, and three on 1st June. Up to four in the Bolton Ings and Wath Ings area from 28th May to 27th June, and occasionally up to 8th August. Two near Kilnsea on 6th June, when there were three at Spurn, one of which remained on the 7th.

Up to three calling at Hagg Bridge near Elvington and one at Askham Bryan during June, and two at Breighton Airfield through June and July.

At least two near Ingbirchworth from 13th June to 23rd July, and singles calling at Nosterfield from 4th to 19th July and at West Tanfield from 6th July to 3rd August. Singles, mostly only on one date, during June and July at Burton Fleming, High Batts, Ardsley, Stannington, Howell Wood, Dunscroft, Austerfield, Newington, Oxenhope, Bielby, North Duffield, and Hatfield Moor in early August.

Five at Hagg Bridge on 4th September and two on 8th, and one at Flamborough on 18th.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Status apparently unchanged as it is maintained by releases such as the 137 on stubble near Bossall in the York area on 30th August. All-white individuals at Burton Constable on 6th February; at Catterton on 19th April; at Howell Wood on 9th October, and at Castle Howard on 18th December.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

One to two at up to 40 localities in the early months with rather more in the last three months.

Pairs probably nested at Blacktoft Sands and Fairburn Ings, which had their maxima of ten and eight respectively during October. An immature seen regularly at Wheldrake Ings during October. One calling at Welton Water on 6th June.

Three at Worsbrough Res. on 20th March and 2nd October; up to four at Sprotbrough Flash where the species was present all the year, and up to four at Hornsea Mere at the year end.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Singles at Sprotbrough Flash on 30th October (DF, AR), at Flamborough on 14th November (AMR), and by the River Don at Barnby Dun on 18th (PHM).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One at Spring Hall, Sheffield on 14th May (ADW). One calling at Aughton Ings on 12th July (TED, EBB).

One on the 'canal zone' at Spurn on 14th September, and one found dead near Beacon Lane on 9th October.

Addition to the 1981 Report: One near Bedale from 20th May to 1st June (CS).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Breeding numbers reduced at Fairburn Ings and along the Rivers Nidd and Skell following severe winter weather. Elsewhere no change in status noted.

53 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 23rd January, and 51 at Storwood on 31st. 53 at Fairburn Ings on 19th March, and up to 60 at Sprotbrough Flash in that month. 55 at Wath Ings on 24th October; 54 at Catcliffe on 14th November, and 64 at Fairburn Ings on 15th. 80 at Wentworth on 2nd December, and 63 at Horbury Wyke on 27th.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Many waters held over 100 during the early months with higher counts of 220 at Pugney's G.P. on 10th January; 200 at Aughton Ings on 24th, and 262 at Bolton-on-Swale on 31st January; over 1,000 at Hornsea Mere in January, and 350 during April; 323 at Tophill Low Res. on 15th February, and 450 at Mickletown Ings on 6th March.

About 200 pairs bred at Hornsea Mere, and it was reported to be more widespread as a breeder in the York area than hitherto realized.

Fairburn Ings had 1,003 on 19th August, but maxima at other waters occurred later, with 254 at Bolton-on-Swale on 11th September, and 270 at Denaby Ings on 13th; 511 at Hay-a-Park in October, and 330 at Pugney's G.P. on 30th October; and 540 at Mickletown Ings on 14th November. Numbers at Hornsea Mere in the latter months were above those of recent years with 2,150 in October, and 1,000 to the year end.

Crane *Grus grus*

Two adults and a juvenile flew south-west from the direction of Easington lagoons over Kilnsea and out over the Humber at 10.02 hours (AJL) and a similar party flew south offshore at Spurn at 10.03 hours (JC), on 10th November.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

At least 20 pairs bred in the Dales in V.C. 64, and at least seven pairs bred along the Lower Derwent and the Pocklington Canal, and birds were present in the breeding season at four other places near York.

Small numbers recorded at inland sites in all months except November, with an obvious return during March, when 60 were in the Ribble Valley on 11th, 59 at Kilnsey on 20th, and 35 at Nosterfield on 13th, and Bolton-on-Swale on 21st.

Maximum counts at wintering sites were not exceptional, with 510 at Cornelian Bay on 6th February, and 690 at Spurn on 5th February, and 400 between Patrington and Easington along the Humber on 7th March. There were isolated peaks of 200 at Cornelian Bay on 17th August, and 240 at Filey Brigg on 5th October, but otherwise the only substantial numbers were at Spurn with 1,351 on 19th October and 1,875 on 30th December.

Southerly coastal passage was as usual heavy during August with on the 7th, 239 at Filey; 185 at Flamborough and 541 at Spurn.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

One at Cherry Cob on 17th January (IF, BS & SP). Two at Whitton Sands on 17th April (TAE). One at Blacktoft Sands on 14th May (AG). Two at Spurn on the Humber on 13th June, and one south over the river on 23rd June.

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 9th and Elvington Airfield on 10th August (TB).

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

One flew south over Kilnsea and over the Humber at Spurn on 30th May (JMT, SML, JC).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

An exceptionally early record of two at Beighton on 20th February (DJG). The next arrivals were singles at Aughton on 14th, and Knotford Nook on 18th, then two at Kilnhurst Flash on 20th March, whilst one to three were at eight other sites between 26th and 31st March.

Bred, or attempted to breed, at four sites near York, and at three others in V.C. 61, and at

least 18 pairs bred in V.C. 64, but suffered losses due to the heavy rainfall. Although well distributed in V.C. 63 the breeding situation was not fully recorded by local societies.

15 at Fairburn Ings on 9th July was the only count of more than nine outside V.C. 63, where six localities had double-figure maxima including 16 at Tinsley S.F. on 28th June, and 14 at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd July.

Late singles at Treeton Dike on 16th and Flamborough on 22nd September, and at Wath Ings and Treeton Dike on 4th October.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Fairly modest estuary counts along the Humber in the early months with a maximum of 93 on 14th February, and inland small numbers of up to five before the spring passage.

A striking spring passage in early May from many inland sites including 40 at Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd, and 30 at Nosterfield on 11th and 17th, whilst along the lower Humber 228 on 9th and 720 on 23rd May, and at Whitton Sands 396 on 24th May. Flocks mainly of individuals showing characteristics of the Arctic race, *C.h. tundrae*, numbered 77 at Spurn on 24th May, and 30 at Blacktoft Sands on 9th June.

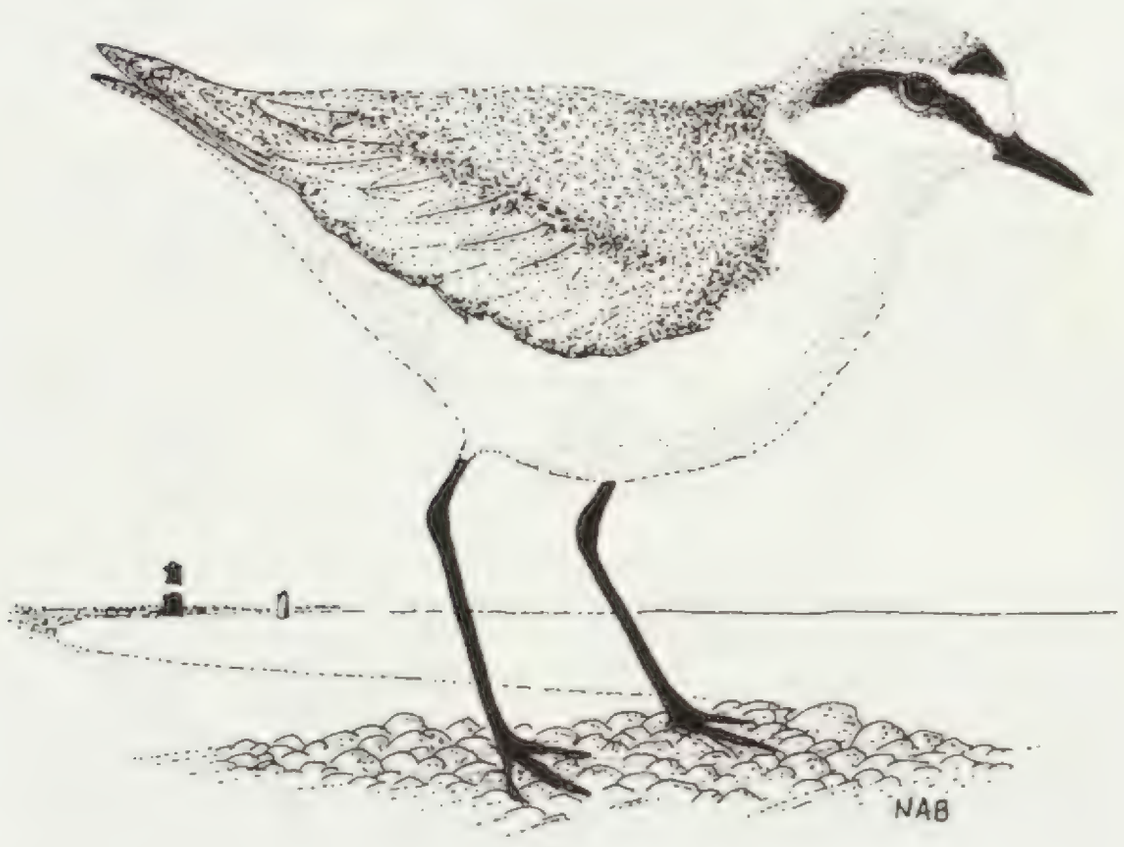
Two pairs bred in V.C. 61; five pairs in V.C. 64, and one pair in V.C. 65, and two other pairs possibly bred in the county.

Autumn passage inland was average with maxima of 24 at Blacktoft Sands on 10th; 23 at Dewsbury S.F. on 19th August, and 24 at Fairburn Ings on 5th September. Few inland after early October apart from five at Harthill Res. on 6th October, and singles at Swillington Ings from 30th October to 7th November, and at Wath Ings on 28th November.

Coastal numbers at the year end were moderate with a peak of 85 at Flamborough on 20th November being the highest count.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A male on the Humber shore at Spurn on 16th May.



Kentish Plover N. A. Bell

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Another good year for spring passage.

One at Escrick on 20th April (TB). Six on Slaithwaite Moor on 8th May (JFR); one on Burley Moor (WG), and four at Blacktoft Sands on 9th May; one on Whitley Common from 13th to 18th with a second on 15th (JED *et al*); six west of Filey on 13th (HJW), and up to 16 at Ravenscar on 14th May, with three still present on 16th (AD, AJW, MFe).

One site in the central Pennines had six from 6th to 10th May, and another site had four on 16th May.

Two at Fylingdales on 17th August (GM).

One a mile west of Kilnsea on 5th September (DHur).

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

An adult of the Asiatic race *P.d. fulvus* at Flamborough on 5th September (DIMW). The third county record.

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

V.C. 61: Apart from a period during the cold spell in January there were very considerable numbers during the early months. Complete counts along the north shore of the Humber gave 2,900 on 14th February, and 4,662 on 7th March (per DBC). Peaks at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge included 1,300 on 31st January; 3,000 on 9th February, and 2,800 on 13th (AC). 1,200 at Cherry Cob on 21st March. Away from the estuary the highest counts were 1,850 at Atwick on 18th January, and 2,165 on the Lower Derwent on 30th, where there were 1,200 during February and March, and 2,150 between Baswick and Hempholme (nr. Tophill Low) on 10th February. Other flocks of 150 to 500 particularly near York, and in April many Northern birds, *P.a. albifrons* in flocks of 450 on the Lower Derwent on 13th; 580 at Escrick on 20th, and 900 at Brind near Howden on 24th.

The Broomfleet and Wildfowl Refuge area had 5,000 on 15th August, then after a brief decline, 5,700 on 11th September, and regularly over 4,000 to late November, including 5,030 on 10th October and 5,500 on 13th November. East of Hull 4,290 between Sunk Island and Cherry Cob on 19th September, and 5,100 between Cherry Cob and Paull on 10th October (SML). 1,350 on the Lower Derwent on 15th October, and flocks of 200 to 500 at 12 other localities between August and the year end.

V.C. 62: 600 at Flotmanby Wold on 2nd, and 467 at Whitby on 5th December.

V.C. 63: Flocks of over 500 at 14 localities in the early months, the highest counts being 750 at Blackmoorfoot on 22nd January; 900 near Loversall on 7th February, and 700 at Wath Ings on 7th and Whiston on 23rd February; 1,000 at Pugney's G.P. on 15th, and 900 at Todwick Grange on 31st March; 1,000 at Pincheon Green on 14th April; and over 600 each, including many Northern race, *P.a. albifrons*, during April at Ringstone Edge on 2nd; Whitley Common and Loscar Common on 20th.

The highest autumn counts were in November, with 1,000 at Pugney's G.P. from 6th to 8th; 1,600 at Wath Ings on 13th, and 1,400 at Crosland Moor, Huddersfield on 29th, and in December 3,200 at Wadworth on 5th.

V.C. 64: Fewer than usual in the early months. 862 at Killinghall on 24th January. As elsewhere, Northern race birds were noted in the April flocks. 630 at Fairburn Ings on 30th September; 800 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 10th October; 1,000 at Killinghall on 15th, and 800 at Thorner on 20th November.

Bred in the uplands of every vice-county except V.C. 61.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Coastal numbers were low with no counts higher than 16, and passage was also moderate with 21 south at Flamborough on 5th September, and 26 south at Spurn on 29th October. Numbers at Spurn and along the Humber were generally less than 50 apart from during May, when the Welwick and Cherry Cob stretch had 308 on 9th, and 570 on 23rd (SML).

Two at Wheldrake Ings on 26th January, one at Blacktoft Sands on 11th May, and one at Redmires Res. on 6th June, with a further 30 inland records between August and December, all

but four of which were in V.C. 63. These included three south-westerly over Redmires Res. on both 21st August and 18th September; seven west over Blacktoft Sands on 24th August, and four there on 18th October and 6th November, and four over Pugney's G.P. on 6th November.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

V.C. 61: 4,700 near Brandesburton on 10th February (WFC). 6,550 along the Humber between Goole and Brough on 14th February where there had been only five on 17th January. 4,000 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 17th March (per DBC). 5,200 on the Lower Derwent on 6th February, and 3,300 on 8th March. Over 1,000 moved south at Hornsea and 862 south at Spurn on 4th January. Many large flocks during the autumn, those of over 1,000 being, 1,850 on the Lower Derwent on 23rd July, and 2,000 there at the year end; and at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge over 2,000 regularly in November and December, with a maximum of 5,000 on 7th December (LAM).

V.C. 62: 500 at Foulbridge on 3rd October, and 885 at Whitby on 5th December.

V.C. 63: Flocks of over 1,000 at nine places up to mid March, with approximate maxima of 2,000 each at Mexborough North Ings on 4th January; Pugney's G.P. on 6th February, Beighton on 11th, Wath Ings on 13th, Blacktoft Sands on 14th, and Brampton on 15th February, and 3,000 at Wadworth on 14th February. Six localities had maxima of over 1,000 in the autumn including 2,000 at Whiston Meadows on 21st October.

V.C. 64: As in V.C. 63 the early month flocks peaked during February with 1,200 at Swillington on 6th; 1,500 at Farnham on 13th, and 2,000 at Nosterfield on 27th. Eight localities had over 1,000 in the autumn and winter, including 2,500 at Staveley on 4th September; 3,000 at Fairburn Ings on 30th October; 2,000 at Knostrop on 4th November, and 2,500 at Thorner Lane End on 20th December.

V.C. 65: Over 5,000 at Bolton-on-Swale on 5th December.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Few again along the coast apart from 110 in Cornelian Bay on 6th February (SML), and southerly passage at Flamborough of 60 on 6th November, and at Spurn regularly, with peaks of 200 on 7th August; 670 on 29th October and 148 on 6th November. 192 came in off the sea at Spurn on 26th August.

The Humber estuary count totalled 31,543 on 17th January, 16,850 on 14th February and 12,110 on 7th March with counts at Patrington Haven on these dates of 30,000, 16,000 and 10,000 respectively. The year's maximum at Spurn was 3,000 on 11th December.

Filey Brigg had good numbers in September and early November, the maximum being 94 on 25th September.

A scattering of inland records from two sites in V.C. 61, one in V.C. 62, seven in V.C. 63, and six in V.C. 64 in all months except June and December, were mainly of one to three birds. Exceptions were 17 west at Redmires Res. on 26th August; at Blacktoft Sands: 20 on 24th August, 25 west on 29th September, and 13 on 7th November; and 13 south at Wintersett Res. on 6th November.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Good numbers on the coast south of Bridlington with 100 on 17th January; 215 on 30th January; 170 on 27th February; 73 on 27th March, and 92 on 27th November. 30 at Jackson's Bay on 16th March, and 34 at Hunmanby Gap on 26th March. Less than 30 elsewhere apart from peaks at Spurn of 150 on 23rd, and 110 on 24th April, 50 on 2nd May, 65 on 29th July, 149 on 13th August, 93 on 3rd, and 85 on 18th September, and 73 on 27th October. 66 south at Spurn on 13th August; 75 south at Withernsea on 11th February, but passage numbers much lower elsewhere.

Small numbers along the Humber with a spring peak of 33 at Whitton Sands on 5th May.

Of the more genuine inland records, which were usually of one to three, 19 were in the spring, and three in the autumn. Four at Nosterfield on 25th May, and ten at Thorpe Marsh on 2nd June.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

One at Bubwith on 30th January.

A moderate year with most records from Blacktoft Sands including the second on 11th April (to 1st May), and the last on 7th November. A scattering of records usually of one or two from May to August, with individuals at eight places during September. Three at Blacktoft Sands on 11th, 15th and 16th May, and five on 5th October; five at Spurn on 29th August; six on Beacon Lane ponds on 26th September (JMD), and three at Staveley on 2nd October.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 14th and 15th May (PWI, KR); at Castle Howard on 30th May (DW, IB), and at Burstwick G.P. from 9th to 11th June (SM). Singles at Blacktoft Sands from 11th to 13th May, from 26th to 29th May, 4th and 5th June, on 31st July and from 25th to 29th September (AG *et al*). One at Muston Flash on 5th August (RHA).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 17th September (AG, CJ, CN). The first record for the county. Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

A rather moderate year with one at Tophill Low Res. on 26th May being the only spring record.

Singles at two places in July, and three in August, plus two at Tophill Low Res. on 30th and 31st, and four at Blacktoft Sands on 12th. Occurred at 15 places during September with five at Whitton Sands on 2nd; 21 at Blacktoft Sands on 6th, and 16 on 18th; 18 west of Kilnsea on 7th; seven at Fairburn Ings on 7th and 8th, with four remaining to the 11th. One or two at four places in October, with four at Blacktoft Sands early in the month, one of which remained to 21st.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

In general, numbers were higher than in 1981 with records in every month from Filey Brigg including one on 1st June. Monthly maxima at Filey were 71 in January; 350 in February; 120 in March; 300 in April; 200 in November and 135 in December. Maxima in January included 20 at Scarborough on 11th; 55 at Flamborough on 2nd, and 117 at Bridlington on 30th. 175 roosted on pier ledges at Whitby on 7th February; 295 were in Cornelian Bay on 13th March, and 28 in Robin Hood's Bay on 14th March (SML).

20 in Jackson's Bay on 19th September; 39 at Flamborough on 6th and 21st November; 52 at Scalby Mills on 11th December and 130 on Scarborough harbour pier on 21st December. Small numbers of five or less at Cayton Bay, Withernsea and Spurn.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

The Humber Estuary counts gave 25,900 on 17th January, 16,900 on 14th February, and 11,190 on 7th March.

Sites along the Humber included in these counts had individual peaks as below:

Spurn Point had 2,000 on 20th February and 20th November.

Cherry Cob had 5,000 on 14th February and 2nd May, and 4,000 on 25th April and 9th May. 4,000 at Welwick on 9th May, and 2,000 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 11th December, and 5,700 between Welwick and Cherry Cob on 19th September.

Maxima along the coast of 650 at Filey in January, and 450 in Cornelian Bay on 6th February. Southerly passage was light at Filey and Flamborough, but considerable numbers passed Spurn including 1,390 on 29th October, and 323 on 5th November.

Good numbers at Blacktoft in all months except June and December with a maximum of 450 in October.

Inland passage was moderate with most peaks occurring during May as follows: 120 at Gouthwaite Res., 94 at Fairburn Ings; 58 at Swillington Ings, and 12 to 21 at five other waters in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 all on 3rd May, with 20 at Lighthazzles on 9th, and 23 at Fly Flatts Res. on 27th. The only other notable counts were 20 at Wath Ings on 7th March; 30 at Whiteholme Res. on 6th June, and 20 on 11th July, and 65 at Swillington Ings on 6th November.

The Lower Derwent floods had 510 on 31st January; 360 on 26th February, and 65 on 11th December.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

The wintering flock at Stone Creek peaked at 55 on 14th February, decreasing to 39 by 6th March, and down to two by 21st (SML). Small numbers were on the Lower Derwent in the early months, and increased to 15 in March, and 40 in April, but few stayed after the dry early spring, and the year-end peak was only five on 27th December.

The majority of inland records were between early May and late September, and generally of parties of no more than eight. Exceptions were Tophill Low Res. and Blacktoft Sands. At Tophill Low after one throughout March, five on 15th April, and 13 on 15th May, as the spring peak; the return commenced on 8th July, up to 15 on 7th August then up to 37 on 10th September and 58 on 13th and 14th September. Blacktoft had birds regularly from late March to the year end with 18 on 25th April, 31 on 31st July, 75 on 20th August, 105 on 29th September and 50 on 2nd November.

30 at Whitton Sands on 8th August, and 20 at Lissett on 22nd August. The Stone Creek and Cherry Cob areas had 93 on 19th September, 37 on 3rd October and 28 on 5th December.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Although the species occurred at 19 localities between January and April, it was relatively scarce during these months. The only records not of singles were of up to four at Bishop Monkton during March; three at Denaby Ings on 23rd, and four at Fulford Ings on 24th March.

One at Grimesgill on 8th August (PY), and one at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd August and 12th September. Three at Beacon Lane ponds on 26th September (JMD).

The main autumn influx commenced on 3rd October after which from one to three were at 27 localities, mainly inland. Six at Fairburn Ings on 25th October.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

108 on the Lower Derwent on 14th March was the largest concentration during the early months, although there were maxima between 50 and 75 at Woodhouse Mill, Wath Ings, Potteric Carr, Bishop Monkton, Flamborough, and Blacktoft Sands between mid January and early April.

Maxima of between 50 and 100 again at most of these sites in the autumn months, and also at Swinton S.F., Tophill Low Res., Swillington Ings, Ringstone Edge Res., Humber Wildfowl Refuge, Pugney's G.P., Cow Bridge near Settle, and Hornsea Mere. Wath Ings had 150 on 23rd September and 200 on 6th October, and Blacktoft Sands 110 on 13th November.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Larger numbers than usual were present in coastal localities from Scarborough to Spurn up to 17th January, including six at Osgodby on 8th; ten at Filey on 10th; 46 at Flamborough on 16th; 25 at Atwick; up to 100 at the Hornsea Mere reserve; seven at Easington and four at Spurn on 16th. Numbers decreased rapidly with the return to milder weather, but eight were at Barlow Grange near York, and six at Grimescar, Huddersfield at the month end.

An early breeding record of an adult with three young at Dacre Banks on 11th April.

Small numbers arrived in early October, but the largest influx was late in that month, and in the first week of November. 22 at Flamborough on 4th November, and 53 on 5th when there were 13 at Spurn.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

V.C. 61: Cherry Cob had three on 17th January; one on 14th February; three on 7th March and one on 21st; three on 25th April, and one on 9th and two on 23rd May; one on 18th July; five on 19th September, and three on 3rd October (SML *et al*). Five at Stone Creek on 25th November (PIH). Singles at Whitton Sands on 21st and 24th April, and three west there on 5th May (TAE). Tophill Low Res. had singles on 15th April, 4th and 7th May and two on 5th May, then one from 13th to 18th September (TME *et al*).

Singles at Flamborough on 14th May and Filey on 11th August and 6th September, and two on 14th August.

One east at Spurn on 20th April, and two on the Humber on 11th May, and 17th July. Singles at Spurn or Beacon Lane on nine dates from 13th August to 19th September.

V.C. 63: Blacktoft Sands had singles on five April dates from the 2nd: seven on 23rd: then four on 5th May, and 3rd June: 14 on 5th and 6th July: one to three during August: eight on 5th September: up to four during October, and up to five during November, and one on 5th December. Singles in May at Potteric Carr on 1st and 2nd, and at Thorpe Marsh on 4th: and singles in August at Sprotbrough Flash on 6th, and Dewsbury S.F. on 19th.

V.C. 64: Spring passage at three sites between 15th March and 22nd April, when there were four at Fairburn Ings. Autumn passage at four sites from 12th July to 6th September, when about 30 flew west over Harrogate S.F. Four at Fairburn Ings on 10th August.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The Cherry Cob area again had high numbers, the peaks in the first five months being 220, 700, 700, 240, and 475 respectively and 185 on 18th July: 180 on 3rd October, and 360 on 28th November (IF, BS & SP, SML). Small numbers regularly at Spurn (37 in February), and at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge (40 on 25th September).

Less than ten at a few other coastal sites including six in Jackson's Bay in the autumn, and no significant coastal passage apart from at Spurn from July to November with a total of 189, of which 47 were on 5th November.

Occurred at or over at least 17 inland sites usually in low single figures, but nine flew north over Sandal on 20th September, as did nine over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 10th October. Four at Pugney's G.P. on 18th August.

Westerly movement inland over Blacktoft Sands of 39 on 27th April: 32 on 10th July: 17 on 8th, 19 on 20th September; and 29 on 3rd and 18 on 21st October.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Early northerly passage at Filey of three on 29th March, and two on both 1st and 2nd April (MJG *et al*) when there was one at Whitton Sands. Light passage inland from 12th April to 17th May, and on the coast 13 at Filey on 3rd May, and 17 at Spurn on 4th. Occurred regularly at Spurn through May, June and July.

The autumn passage inland was much further spread with from one to seven at 47 localities between early July and early October. Parties of seven over Blacktoft Sands on 13th July and Redmires Res. on 24th August: 11 at Fairburn Ings on 4th August, and 14 south-east over Warmsworth on 4th September.

Higher numbers moving south along the coast with peaks of 40 at Filey on 26th August, and 73 at Spurn on 21st August. Up to 34 on the Humber at Spurn in late July.

A dark-rumped individual considered to be either of the Nearctic race, *N.p. hudsonicus*, or the Eastern Palearctic race, *N.p. variegatus*, flew south at Flamborough on 12th September (DGH, DIMW).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

The Humber Estuary counts totalled 363 on 17th January: 1,144 on 14th February, and 2,162 on 7th March. Later in the year the Cherry Cob to Welwick stretch had 2,150 on 18th July, and 1,960 on 19th September.

Although numbers were small there were more records than usual from inland sites in January including ten at Eccup Res. on 4th, and nine south at Scammonden on 10th. Spring passage inland at many places during March including 144 on the Lower Derwent, and 300 in the Ribble Valley on 3rd, where there were 800 on 15th. 100 at Chelker Res. on 7th March, and 200 at Austwick Moss on 14th April, and 60 still there on 10th May.

There are indications from V.C.s 61, 62 and 63 that the species continues to move into new breeding sites. Autumn flocks were not large apart from 75 at Malham Tarn on 28th August, and 169 at Bolton-on-Swale on 28th November. Some westerly passage at Blacktoft Sands with 314 on 30th June, and 237 on 7th July.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

As is increasingly the case with this species it occurred in practically every month, November being the only exception. Singles at Cherry Cob on 17th January, and by the River Calder near

Dewsbury on 25th December, and at Darton S.F. on 26th, were further evidence of wintering. Singles inland at eight sites between 28th February and 12th May.

A heavier passage in the autumn, commencing with one to two at four sites in late June, with a much wider spread in August involving at least 22 places. Blacktoft Sands had three on 8th July, four on 7th August and three on 2nd October. Three at Gouthwaite Res. on 10th September; four at Fairburn Ings, and seven between Welwick and Sunk Island on 19th September. One at Hornsea Mere on 2nd December.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

130 at Flamborough and 150 at Filey during January. 130 at Cornelian Bay on 6th February, and 113 between Whitby and Saltwick Nab on 7th. The Humber Estuary had 2,105 on 7th March including 1,600 at Patrington Haven. Maxima for the year along the Humber included 1,150 at Spurn on 5th September, 935 between Welwick and Cherry Cob, and 800 at Easington on 1st September, and 175 at the Wildfowl Refuge on 10th October. Blacktoft Sands had 110 to 115 in October and November.

The Lower Derwent had 89 on 26th February, and at least two pairs bred, and the species may also have bred at two other York area sites. Bred at traditional lowland and moorland sites in V.C. 63. 30 at Long Preston on 13th March; 42 at Fairburn Ings and 20 at Wath Ings on 20th March; 60 at Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd May, and 34 at Mickletown Ings on 10th December, and 130 near Whitby on 5th December.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One near Burshill (V.C. 61) on 10th February (WFC). Singles at Bubwith on 4th March, and at Fairburn Ings and Wath Ings on 7th. Spring passage commenced in earnest in late April and continued to early June with one to three at 23 localities, plus six at Fairburn Ings on 25th April; six at Pugney's G.P. on 14th May, and eight at Tophill Low Res. on 15th, and four at Spurn on 22nd May.

An average autumn passage commenced on 7th July and continued until about 6th October. At least 14 localities had four to eight birds, whilst higher numbers (maxima only) were 11 at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd August; 16 at Blacktoft Sands, and 11 at Pugney's G.P. on 4th, and 14 at Beacon Lane ponds on 19th August.

One at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge to 18th October; two at Fairburn Ings on 30th October and 1st November, where there were singles on 29th November and 29th December; two at Wombwell Ings on 8th, and one at Ardsley Res. on 16th November.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

One at Broomhill Flash on 20th and 21st September (PB, JMC, GJS, JMT *et al*). The third record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Winter birds (January and February) at 14 places were singles except for two each at Swinton and Wath, and three at Skellow in January.

A light spring passage included five at Wath Ings on 20th March, and 4th and 17th April, and four at Tophill Low Res. on 10th April. Recorded at six places during June.

Autumn passage was good with parties into double figures at many sites. 15 at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd July peaking again at 16 in early August, and on 31st, with 11 on 11th September. 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 18th August. Wath Ings had 20 on 3rd August, and 17 on 15th September. 20 at Burstwick G.P. on 11th August, and 12 along dikes to the west of Kilnsea on 15th August.

Ones or twos at 13 sites in November and December, but eight at Knostrop S.F. on 14th November, and four at Skelbrooke Tip in that month.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Singles at eight sites during May from 7th, and two at Tophill Low Res. on 19th. Singles during June at Fairburn Ings (7th), Bolehill Flash (9th), Ingbirchworth Res. (14th), and Tinsley S.F. (23rd).

Two each at Pool Paper Mills on 6th, and Blacktoft Sands on 31st July, with singles at three other places in that month. Widespread records from 11 places during August including five at Lissett on 7th (HOB); three at Tophill Low Res. on 8th, and three south at Spurn on 29th. Singles at five places in September including one at Nosterfield on 30th, and the last at Barugh pond on 2nd October.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Singles at Throxenby Mere on 7th February, and Hackness on 11th March (MFc) may have been the same, and one at Allerton Bywater on 2nd March may have wintered. One at Acaster Malbis on 24th March, and singles at Leventhorpe near Leeds, and Ingbirchworth Res., and Thorpe Marsh on 10th April. Individuals at ten other sites by 26th April. 22 at Gouthwaite Res. on 13th May.

Up to 12 in late July and early August at Knostrop S.F., Spurn, Stanley S.F., Gouthwaite Res. and Lindley Res. 22 at Hay-a-Park on 31st July; 23 at Fairburn Ings on 3rd August; 17 at Tophill Low Res. on 4th and 15 at Dewsbury S.F. on 16th August.

One at Sprotbrough Flash to 23rd October, and singles at Anchor Plain near York on 28th November, and at Beighton on 24th November and 4th December.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

One in summer plumage at Wath Ings on 24th and 25th May (NWA, JH, MF *et al*). The fourth record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

The flock on the Humber at Spurn was again the largest in the county with peaks of over 100 from February to May, and August to December including 230 on 21st March, and 412 on 18th September. Maximum counts along the coast of 350 at Cornelian Bay on 6th February, and 235 on 13th March (SML); 161 at Bridlington on 27th February and 117 on 1st May; 150 at Filey during April, and 106 at Jackson's Bay on 12th May. The highest autumn count was of 124 at Filey on 5th September, when there were 60 at Flamborough.

Inland, nine records in May; two in June; eight in July, and 13 in August. These were mostly ones and twos, and included birds on 11 dates at Blacktoft Sands. Three at Fairburn Ings on 11th May (and 22nd August), and at Masham on 11th and 12th May; five at Nosterfield on 16th and 17th May; seven at Redmires Res. on 19th August, and four at Wath Ings on 24th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 20th June. A first-year at Tophill Low Res. from 28th to 31st August (MS *et al*), and one at the entrance to Scarborough harbour on 7th November (MFe, RHA, RNH).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One in Filey Bay on 31st January (TH).

One inland at Beighton on 18th August (DHur).

Singles at Flamborough Head from 7th to 12th September; on 24th September; 7th and 20th November, and 5th December (AMA, DGH, JH, PAL, DIMW). Singles at Filey Brigg on 16th November and 30th December (MGR, SC, PJD, TH). One off the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 7th November eventually flew south (RHA).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

An adult north at Spurn on 2nd May was the only spring record.

Despite a slow start to the autumn movement with singles in July at Flamborough on 23rd, and at Spurn on 28th and 31st, and low numbers during August and September, the species became quite frequent off Flamborough during October and November.

During August singles at Spurn on 7th, 17th, 24th, and 29th, and off Filey Brigg on 20th, and a total of 16 off Flamborough including five on 21st, and seven on 31st. Spurn had further singles on 4th, 13th and 14th September, and two on 5th, and in October singles on 11th and 29th. One

was at Withernsea on 20th September, and singles passed Filey on 4th, 6th and 10th October (SML, PJD, SC, HJW).

A total of 29 at Flamborough during September with five each on 13th and 27th, and almost daily during October with 41 on 7th; 18 on 8th; eight on 9th, and 42 on 14th. November also produced good numbers with 31 on 6th and 12 on 7th, and there were late singles on 21st and 29th November, and 4th and 12th December.

Inland two at Fairburn Ings on 21st October, one of which died (GRW *et al*), and one at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th November (PJC *et al*). One over Tophill Low Res. on 16th August (RL).

Pomarine Skua D. Braithwaite

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

One at Filey (TIC, HJW) and two at Flamborough on 9th January. A few records in the spring after singles at Filey and Spurn on 11th April, with one to two at the three places mentioned above on nine dates up to 23rd June (two at Filey), plus three at Spurn on 23rd April, and four at Flamborough on 9th May.

Regular passage almost daily between 21st July and mid October at Spurn, Flamborough and Filey, and a scattering of records off Scarborough in the same period. The highest counts at these watch points are listed below. At Spurn: 104 on 21st and 28th August, 110 on 27th and 100 on 31st August; 132 on 4th and 190 on 6th September; and 63 on 7th October. At Flamborough: 156 on 21st and 215 on 31st August; and 97 on 6th September. At Filey: 129 on 21st August; 262 on 6th September, and 106 on 6th October. Scarborough had 54 south in three hours on 30th August, and 87 on 6th September (MDW). 87 went south off Grimston on 7th October (AWW).

A few November records included nine on 6th, and four on 13th at Spurn, and five on 7th at Filey.

Singles at Filey on 12th (DJW), and Bridlington on 19th December (KR).

Inland, singles at Blacktoft Sands on 1st, and over Chelker Res. on 14th May (FAW). One at Potteric Carr on 19th June. Four flew east over Tophill Low Res. on 16th August (RL). Singles at Redmires Res. on 19th September (KC), Eccup Res. on 8th October (RCH), and Blacktoft Sands on 26th October. Three over Thrybergh Res. on 29th October (WD), and three flying west over Whitton Sands on 6th November (TAE).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Apart from singles south at Easington on 25th August (GED *et al*), and Spurn on 25th September, and east over Bridlington North Bay on 6th November (DIMW) all the other sightings were at Flamborough.

These commenced with two on 28th August (JMD, JED *et al*) and two on 31st (PAL *et al*); then two each on 5th (PD, DIMW) and 6th September, and singles on 27th September (PAL), and 4th October (GPC). A total of nine on 7th October included six juveniles (AG *et al*), and on 8th three more juveniles, and an adult (AMA *et al*); one on 9th, and four (three juveniles) on 14th (AMA, AG, PAL).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Singles on 3rd January at Spurn, and on 24th at Filey (HJW, DJW). The only spring birds were singles at Flamborough on 18th April and 22nd May, and two at Filey on 1st May, and also one at Welton Water on 23rd (MC), and Whitton Sands on 24th May (TAE).

Autumn passage from 23rd July to mid October, was daily at Flamborough, slightly less frequent at Spurn and Filey, and sparse at Scarborough. Noteworthy numbers at the watch points included at Flamborough: 22 on 31st August; 31 on 5th, 54 on 6th and 23 on 27th September; 65 on 7th and 26 on 14th October; at Spurn: 22 on 5th and 26 on 6th September (plus nine east), and 11 on 6th October; at Filey: 59 south on 6th September, 29 on 6th October and 18 on 7th. Also five south at Scarborough on 6th September, and 33 south at Grimston on 7th October.

Five each at Spurn on 6th, and Filey on 13th November, where there were singles on 4th and 11th December, and finally four off Flamborough on 18th, and three on 19th December.

One on the River Ouse near Blacktoft Sands from 7th to 11th May, and one on 24th May (AG).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

The adult in Bridlington harbour was seen on many occasions with fewer sightings in the summer than the winter. Adults seen at Flamborough on 9th and 16th January, 19th June, 7th October, and 6th November may well have been the Bridlington bird, although there was a second adult on 16th January. An adult at Filey Brigg on 26th February.

A second-year at Flamborough on 5th September and Filey on 12th, and a first-year at Filey on 5th and 6th October (SC *et al*). One in the Kilnsea and Easington areas from 14th September to mid October. Singles at Spurn on 2nd and 26th October (sub-adult and second-year), and on 17th and 22nd November (adults). An adult at Scalby Mills on 15th October (MDW), and one at Hornsea Mere on 19th November (BS & SP).

Inland, one at Broomhead Res. on 7th January (JH); an adult at Whitton Sands on 23rd April, and a first-year on 7th May (TAE), and singles at Dringhouses Pond on 9th October (DW), and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 9th November (JB).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

V.C. 61: Hornsea Mere had birds in all months except February and March with the usual pattern in early autumn with a maximum of 80 on 23rd August. Tophill Low Res. had up to six in late May; seven on 29th June, two on 2nd, three on 10th, five on 11th, and up to six present to the end of July. A few singles at Whitton Sands and two on 28th August, and one at Wheldrake Ings on 27th September, and singles at a few coastal localities during the winter.

Spurn had one on 14th May; birds on five June days; then regularly through August, September and early October, with fewer into November, and on two December days only. These included 16 on 23rd September; 16 on 28th November, and four on 19th December.

Unprecedented numbers were seen off the coast in late September particularly off Flamborough and Filey, but also off Withernsea. The numbers moving south off Filey Brigg and Flamborough Head were the largest ever recorded off the Yorkshire coast. The counts at Flamborough from 24th to 29th September were: 726, 1,047, 249, 2,072, 583, and 80 respectively, then 512 on 2nd; 69 on 3rd, and 73 on 7th October. At Filey Brigg counts of 201 on 25th, 284 on 27th, and 44 on 28th September, then 399 on 2nd, and 333 on 5th October. High numbers off Withernsea (but moving north) of 79 in half an hour on 22nd September, and 40 on

24th; 36 on 1st October, with flocks offshore of 96 on 23rd; 87 on 26th, and 28 on 27th September, and during November 22 on 8th; 28 on 9th; 30 on 24th, and 20 on 26th (SML).

V.C. 62: Singles at Scalby Mills on 29th March, 9th April, 16th and 29th August. One in Jackson's Bay on 9th April. Singles off the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 31st August and 25th September (PJD, WAC, MDW). 54 south off the Marine Drive in half an hour on 4th October (RHA). One in Scarborough harbour from 8th to 19th December.

V.C. 63: Singles at Pugney's G.P. on 13th May, 8th June and 1st August. Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 19th and 31st May, 9th June, 22nd July, 28th August and 12th September. One at Dewsbury S.F. from 15th to 21st August. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th September and Barnby Dun on 18th November.

V.C. 64: Seven at Fairburn Ings on 19th April and one on 21st; two from 1st to 4th, with one to 13th May; two from 18th to 23rd May, then singles on 13th, 14th, 17th, and 22nd June, and on 6th September, and 6th November. Three at Swillington Ings on 10th July. Singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 28th August and 12th September, and at Hay-a-Park on 30th August.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

One at Flamborough on 10th April (DIMW).

Singles at Filey Brigg on 24th July (TME), 25th September and 4th October (PJD *et al*). Singles at Flamborough on 21st (IF *et al*) and 22nd August (PAL) and 4th September (PAL) were adults, as was one on 28th September, but the remainder here were all immatures with two on 27th September (PAL), and singles on 9th October, 7th November (AMA, DGH *et al*), and 12th November.

Spurn had an adult on 20th August, and two immatures on 20th September. An immature at Long Nab, Burniston on 26th September (MF) and one north at Scarborough on 2nd October (ASK).

Inland, an immature at Blackmoorfoot Res. for ten minutes on 1st October before departing northwards (MLD).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

V.C. 61: The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had regular maxima of over 12,000 from early September to mid November, with a peak of over 21,000 on 14th October (LAM). 15,000 roosted in Filey Bay on 28th September, and 4,000 were at Tophill Low Res. on 30th December. A vast roost of up to 50,000 at Wheldrake Ings had decreased to 4,000 by 3rd April. 80 pairs bred at Strensall Common rearing 34 young, and it is estimated that 500 pairs bred at Skipwith Common.

V.C. 63: At least six roosts had 1,500 to 5,000 in the early months including 5,000 at Blacktoft in January and 6,000 at Pugney's G.P. on 7th February, whilst two tips had over 1,000 feeding. Only 77 birds were sitting at the Black Moss colony on 7th June. High counts in the autumn included 10,000 at Blacktoft in September; 5,900 at Pugney's G.P. on 1st November, and 5,000 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th November, and at Wintersett Res. on 22nd December.

V.C. 64: 122 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, but few at Knostrop S.F. where human predation has caused a decrease. Roost maxima over 5,000 were 5,750 at Eccup Res. on 10th January, and over 13,000 here in December, and 5,100 at Fairburn Ings on 13th December.

Near Gouthwaite Res. during October up to six birds were hovering over, or perching on, hawthorn bushes and feeding on berries.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

A second-winter bird at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th February (MLD).

Addition to the 1981 Report: One at Whitton Sands on 30th September (TAE). Second and third county records.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

V.C. 61: The Humber Estuary count of 14th February gave 2,400 of which 1,500 were near Whitton Sands (DBC). A large roost at Tophill Low Res. with 1,500 on 15th October; 2,500 on

3rd and 6,000 on 30th December. 10,000 roosting in Filey Bay on 28th September (HJW). 10,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 28th February.

V.C. 62: 700 on Castle Howard Lake on 13th March.

V.C. 63: 700 at Ardsley Res. on 9th January, and 730 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th February. 980 at Wath Ings on 1st November, and up to 1,000 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th.

V.C. 64: 1,000 at Askham Bog tip in early January. 4,500 at Eccup Res. in mid February, and a similar number from 7th November to the year end. A pair attempted to nest near Settle.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

The Eccup Res. roost had maxima of 255 on 21st March, and 489 on 27th October, showing a continuation of the recent decline. Six sites in V.C. 63 had between 100 and 200 in the early months, and there was a marked spring passage particularly in V.C. 64 with 337 at Bishop Monkton on 18th April, and over 100 at five other sites during April, May and June.

Higher counts during the autumn particularly in October with 700 at Pugney's G.P. on 4th; 500 at Skelbrook Tip on 7th; and 805 at Masham on 31st. 500 were following a plough on 19th September at Melbourne near Pocklington. 310 at Wintersett Res. on 4th, and 241 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th November, and peaks of 100 to 200 at four other sites in V.C. 63 mainly during October.

Many individuals showing characteristics of the races *L.f. fuscus* and *L.f. intermedius* in all months except May, November and December. These were mainly at Flamborough (about 80) and Spurn (about 70), but were also reported from Scarborough, Filey, the north shore of the Humber, Wheldrake Ings, North Duffield, Pugney's G.P., Blackmoorfoot Res., Kilnhurst Flash, and Warren Vale tip.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

About 2,500 wintered in Filey Bay, and 3,900 passed Flamborough Head on 17th February, the only really large movement. Spurn had a maximum of 1,200 on 26th March, and over 600 were off Withernsea on 28th March. 250 roosted at Wheldrake Ings on 9th January, and 350 were at Hornsea Mere on 25th. 500 on the tip at Beverley on 31st December.

During January in V.C. 63 at least 12 roosts and tips had maxima between 100 and 500, which was the total near Blacktoft Sands. In V.C. 64 there were 550 at Fairburn Ings on 6th January, but only two other sites had over 100 in the early months. Autumn numbers in these two vice-counties were much higher and the following maxima were recorded: Blacktoft Sands 750 in October; Broomhead Res. 1,000 on 23rd November; Eccup Res. 550 on 30th November, and 1,240 on 30th December; Wintersett Res. 320 on 30th December, and Bishop Monkton 500 on 31st.

Dark northern birds of the *L.a. omissus* type were fairly frequent at Flamborough with a maximum of 17 on 24th January.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

V.C. 61: A first-year bird on several days during April at Flamborough. An adult at Whitton Sands on 23rd April (TAE). First-winter individuals at Flamborough on 28th November (AMA, DGH), and at Filey Brigg on 31st December (SC, PJD).

V.C. 62: An adult in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 10th April (AJW).

V.C. 63: Singles at Shirecliffe Tip on 1st and 2nd January (DG) and at Ardsley Res. on 9th (JM). A second-winter at Scammonden Dam on 9th January (JB). A first-winter at Wintersett Res. on 25th December (JMC).

V.C. 64: At Eccup Res. in January, a second-winter on 29th (RCH, DO), and a first-winter on 31st (RCH). An adult at Wormald Green tip at Harrogate on 11th January (GTF), and a second-winter on 14th March (GWF). An adult at Swillington Ings on 13th February (JW).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

V.C. 61: Although there were fewer than in 1980 and 1981 the species was too numerous at the regular sites to list in full. Filey had a first winter from early January to March, last seen on 8th April; an adult on 31st January occasionally to 1st March; a second-year on 8th April, and a

first-winter on 9th October seen regularly from 12th November onwards. Flamborough had 22 bird days up to 18th April including three each on 23rd and 31st January, and a total of nine bird days in the autumn with three on 28th November. At Bridlington a first-winter from 2nd January to 21st March, and a second-winter on 3rd January and 7th February, and one at Fraisthorpe on 24th April. Two individuals at Bridlington on a total of five days at the year end. Singles at Withernsea on 17th November, and 6th December. Spurn had singles on 16th January, 26th March and 4th April, and one regularly from 12th April to 12th May; then ten bird days in the autumn from 2nd September with two on 11th December. Singles at Whitton Sands on 6th February and 23rd and 24th April, and inland at Aughton on 3rd January; Storwood on 1st March, and Wheldrake on 29th December.

V.C. 62: At least eight bird days in the Scarborough area to 21st March, and nine bird days from 8th October to 5th December, with at least four individuals during each period, with sightings at Scalby Mills, from the Marine Drive and in the harbour.

V.C. 63: Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res., Kiveton Park tip, Rawmarsh tip, Warren Vale tip, and Blacktoft Sands in January; at Monckton tip and Wintersett Res. in February; at Skelbrooke tip and Blacktoft Sands in April, and one at Wath Ings on 13th June. In the autumn singles at Parkway, Sheffield on 26th October; at Wintersett Res. and Pugney's G.P. in November, and at Blackmoorfoot Res. (two) in late December.

V.C. 64: Fairburn Ings had a first-winter on 15th January; an adult on 10th February; a second-winter occasionally from 13th February to 7th March; a third-winter on 21st February, and an adult on 8th October. At Wormald Green tip, Harrogate on 11th January an adult and first-winter, with the latter remaining to 14th. Eccup Res. had an adult on 14th, 21st and 24th December.

Addition to the 1980 and 1981 Reports: A second-winter at Shroggs tip, Halifax seen on six dates from 29th December 1980 to 19th January 1981 when it was also seen at Fly Flatts reservoir.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Fairburn Ings had the largest roost in the early months with 1,300 on 17th January, and 700 on 7th February. Eight roosts and tips in V.C. 63 had 100 to 250 during January, when Pugney's G.P. had 300 on 8th, and numbers near Blacktoft Sands reached 550, and there were up to 300 at Hornsea Mere.

Peaks at inland roosts at the year end were 300 at Fairburn Ings, 400 at Tophill Low Res., 316 at Wintersett Res., but no more than 50 to just over 100 elsewhere. 400 at Whitton Sands on 13th November, and 500 at Hornsea Mere in December. The maximum at Filey was 700 in January, and at Flamborough 1,300 on 17th February and 1,200 on 6th November, and southerly passage at Spurn peaked in late October with 1,500 on 26th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Counts of the principal breeding colonies were not apparently made during 1982, but they continue to flourish as do the pairs in Bridlington harbour.

Peaks of movement at Flamborough of 3,200 on 27th February; 35,000 on 13th June; 23,000 on 31st August, and 15,000 on 9th October. At Filey Brigg, 1,500 an hour north on 30th March; 4,200 an hour south on 27th April.

Inland, 34 records of ones or twos from January to early May plus three at Wheldrake Ings on 18th February, and 22 records from mid August to December. These were typical of inland occurrences, many of them being after strong westerlies, but less usual were 38 at Fairburn Ings on 12th March; 25 west at Blacktoft Sands on 17th May, and 45 east over High Bishopside (V.C. 64) on 20th November.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

An adult flew south at Flamborough on 10th July (PAL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

An immature flew south at Filey Brigg on 4th June (TLH); one was at Blacktoft Sands on 24th June (AG), and one flew north at Flamborough on 22nd August (PAL).

The situation of the above with regard to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee is that the first was not accepted; the second was accepted, and the third has not yet been submitted.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

One at Filey Brigg on the very early date of 10th January (TME). The first spring arrivals were two at Filey, and one at Flamborough on 27th March, and one at Spurn on 30th. The spring passage was not spectacular, and 112 at Filey on 10th April was the highest count.

Southerly passage at Spurn during August occurred in the evenings with over 1,000 on four days including 1,550 on 25th, but northerly movement on some mornings with 4,000, probably this species, on 21st. Peaks of passage further north were of 415 on 31st July at Filey; and at Flamborough on 31st August, 1,080 and on 5th September, 1,180. 127 flew south at Filey in 90 minutes on 12th October, and the last were at Flamborough on 14th.

12 inland records of ones and twos from 17th April to 19th September, and one larger party of ten west over Fairburn Ings on 6th September.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

The only records were from Flamborough Head with three on 8th May, and singles on 29th and 31st August, and 7th October (PAL *et al*).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The problem of distinguishing this species from the next, Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*, when seen in flight either briefly or distantly remains, and again many of those reported were not specifically identified. Those reported as *commic* terns are included below.

The first two at Spurn on 8th April, but none in the inland vice-counties until 23rd April, after which passage was modest until June, when Fairburn Ings had 24 on 6th, and Elland G.P. 18 on 23rd, and three other places had 14 or more.

A pair raised three young at Fairburn Ings, and a pair was at Bolton-on-Swale from 20th April to 31st May.

Passage during the late summer and autumn was heaviest during August, with inland maxima of 36 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th August (both species), and on 29th August, 12 at Wath Ings and 17 at Sprotbrough Flash (all commic). Passage declined by early October, but one flew west over Pugney's G.P. on 6th November (commic). 33 at Hornsea Mere on 5th August.

Flamborough had its highest numbers yet recorded in autumn with 2,800 on 27th August; 2,130 on 31st August, and 3,800 on 5th September. Southerly passage at Spurn, mostly during the evenings, produced peaks of 1,954 on 24th and 2,200 on 25th August, and 1,700 on 9th September, and on 29th August 2,000 were feeding off the Point.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

On 22nd April, 33 north-east at Spurn, and two east at Whitton Sands. One at Blacktoft Sands on 30th April, and one to two at coastal and inland localities on 1st May. In general only very small numbers, with four at Welton Water on 5th May, 17 at Fairburn Ings on 19th June, and nine at Sprotbrough Flash on 23rd August being the largest parties.

230 on passage at Flamborough on 31st August.

Last one at Wintersett Res. on 1st and 2nd October.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

One west at Spurn on 25th April, then almost daily there in May with 42 south on 3rd, and ten on 22nd. Occasional records at Spurn during June and early July, then regularly from mid July to early September, including 18 on 14th August. Few elsewhere along the coast appearing at Filey on ten days, Flamborough on three, and off Hornsea once. Four pairs bred near Easington and

reared at least eight young, and 23 were at Easington on 31st July. Last one on the coast at Flamborough on 26th September.

Inland, two at Fairburn Ings on 14th, and one at Bishop Monkton on 16th May; two at Farnham G.P. on 5th, and one at Blacktoft Sands on 25th June; singles at Swillington Ings on 31st July and 1st August; one at Pugney's G.P. on 17th August, and one at Hay-a-Park on 27th September.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

An adult at Flamborough on 23rd July (DIMW).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Spring passage commenced with four at Castle Howard and one at Wheldrake Ings on 4th May, and continued with scattered records through the month, and into June up to the 20th. Numbers were very low, usually three or less, the only exceptions being seven at Pugney's G.P. on 14th May, and ten at Fairburn Ings on 19th June.

Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 16th, 17th and 23rd July and four at Gouthwaite Res. on 13th were the only ones during that month. A more regular passage commenced on 1st August with seven at Easington, and although records were widespread the majority were at Filey, Hornsea Mere and Spurn. The maxima from 20 inland sites were only up to three apart from 27 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 10th September, and six at Wath Ings on 19th, and 12 at Hornsea Mere on 29th, and 24 at Harthill Res. on 10th September.

A total of 104 at Spurn on 21 August days, of which 70 flew south, then less frequent in September with a maximum of ten on 21st. Ten at Filey on 25th and 26th September, and 13 on 2nd October, and nine at Flamborough on 27th September. Last one at Hornsea Mere on 28th October.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

A juvenile at Blacktoft Sands on 20th September (AG).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

No significant change in the breeding population at Bempton Cliffs, and most had departed the cliff ledges by 1st August.

On days of heavy movement this species and Razorbill, *Alca torda*, were lumped together in some of the counts. Off Flamborough Head 14,850 went north on 31st January, and 16,500 on 18th March, whilst Spurn had 1,750 north in two hours on 26th March. Filey Brigg had 1,700 an hour south on 19th January. 22,000 passed Flamborough on 8th October.

One east over Wheldrake Ings during a thunderstorm on 29th June.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Stable breeding populations on the cliffs at Filey, Bempton and Flamborough.

350 south of Filey Brigg on 16th November.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

One at Flamborough on 4th April and an immature at Filey Brigg on 19th September.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

One at Filey on 19th January (PJD), and singles found dead at Fraisthorpe and Bridlington in the first three months. At Flamborough two on 20th February, singles on 10th April, 1st June, 8th and 9th October, and 28th November, and three on 7th October (PAL, DIMW *et al*). One at Spurn on 28th October. One found at Sand Hutton on 9th January died later.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Total counts at Bempton ranged from 377 on 21st April, to 2,496 on 6th May. Bred again on cliffs north of Filey Brigg. The highest hourly count at Filey was 424 on 20th July, and peak counts at Flamborough, where the species was scarce in autumn and winter, were 1,000 on 13th March, and 10,500 on 1st August. Numbers declined sharply after 22nd August.

Inland, singles at Blacktoft Sands on 28th August, and at Thorne on 25th September.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

1,350 on the cliffs north of Flamborough on 27th February, and 5,000 between Flamborough and Speeton on 24th October. Many of the above are feral birds resembling pure stock, as are those at Filey which show no sign of decrease despite shooting. Five pure birds at Lund, near Driffield, on 17th January (DIMW).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

100 on Hatfield Moors on 17th January, and near Ingbirchworth on 5th March; and 120 at Gouthwaite on 21st March. Flocks of 50 to 100 at four other places in the early months, and two during the autumn. 50 pairs in Cadeby Quarry on 10th April.

Large numbers at Broomhill Flash during the autumn peaked at 360 on 12th October, and there were 153 at Thrybergh on 13th October, and 170 on Hatfield Moors on 23rd December.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Moderate numbers in the early months included maxima of 1,000 on Hatfield Moors on 17th January and 3rd March; 1,500 at Great Gate Wood, Doncaster on 23rd January; 2,000 roosting at Hornsea Mere in late January; 2,050 at Warter on 14th February, and 1,800 at Watton Carrs on 20th March.

Higher numbers during the autumn with 1,887 over Redmires on 28th, and 1,500 on Hatfield Moors on 31st October, and 1,800 at Thrybergh on 13th November, and 1,500 at Hornsea Mere in late November. An increase in the numbers of large flocks in December particularly in the south-west of the county. 1,180 in the Moss Valley on 7th; 1,000 at Wharfe Ings on 24th; 3,000 at Storthes Hall, Huddersfield on 27th, when 985 flew north over Knaresborough Ringing Station; 1,170 in the Oxton and Catterton area on 29th; and on 30th, 7,000 at Wentworth, and 2,000 at Oulston.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Reported as still spreading slowly into areas not previously colonized in V.C. 61 and V.C. 64.

The Headingley roost had 200 in January, and 140 on 24th December. Other peaks in the early months were, 195 at Fairburn Ings on 2nd; 208 at Selby on 4th, and 160 at Tadcaster on 23rd January, and three other localities had 60 to 80.

High peaks and interesting records in autumn and winter included, 130 at Royston on 21st, and 104 on Thorne Levels on 30th October; 59 at Seamer G.P. on 4th November; 250 at Notton during December, and 70 roosting in a hawthorn hedge at Millfield, Horbury on 30th December, and up to 100 at Sprotbrough in November. Eight other localities had 50 to 75 in this period.

Unprecedented numbers for the Spurn area were grounded between 9th and 23rd April, and peaked at 66 on 17th, and were feeding on newly sown and harrowed fields.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

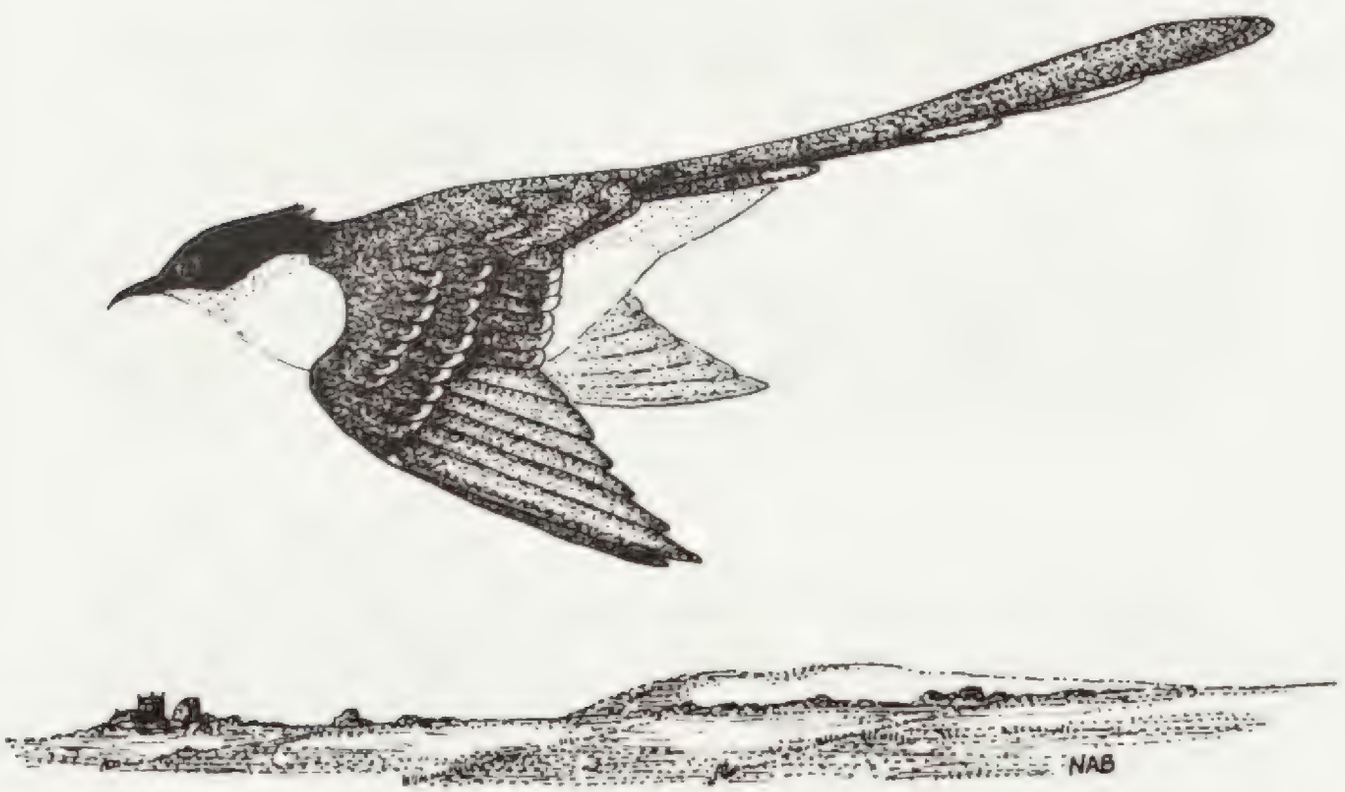
Singles at Elvington Airfield on 15th April; Rufforth on 23rd and Woodall, near York on 27th April, and on 2nd May at Nostell and Knaresborough Ringing Station, after which a slow, but more general arrival during the next two weeks. 35 west at Blacktoft Sands on 16th May, and 25 at Flamborough on 23rd May, when there were 55 on Clubley's Field, at Spurn; and 40 on Hatfield Moors on 26th. 32 at West Tanfield on 11th July; 29 at Wath Ings on 30th August, and 33 on Hatfield Moors on 4th September.

Late singles on 3rd October at Wheldrake Ings, Blacktoft Sands, and South Kirkby, and at Spurn on 15th October, and another at Wheldrake extremely late on 13th November.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

A juvenile along the Humber bank between Skeffling and Kilnsea from 16th October (NAB, GN) to at least 6th November (many observers), visited Spurn on 17th October. First record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.



Great Spotted Cuckoo N. A. Bell

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Several early records included one at Edlington, Doncaster on 6th April; two at Dunnington Common on 10th; and singles at Thorpe Marsh on 11th; Lofthouse Gill on 14th; and Osgodby on 19th, and although a general distribution in V.C. 64 had taken place by the month end, in the rest of the county it was not until 2nd to 9th May that the species was widely distributed. Six at Storwood, and seven at Hornsea Mere on 16th May, and six at Flamborough on 22nd May. The Cowden Range area regularly had up to 15 during the late spring and early summer. Late singles at Skipwith on 20th, at Dunnington on 26th, and at Wheldrake on 29th September.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

V.C. 61: Remains numerous along the coastal strip from Spurn north to Bridlington, and inland as far as Beverley, and also seen occasionally along the Humber both east and west of Hull. Eleven pairs located at nine sites near York, the latter probably being due to an increase in knowledge by York observers rather than an increase in breeding success. A dark-breasted individual probably of the race *T.a. guttata* at Flamborough on 23rd October.

V.C. 62: Pairs bred at Hovingham, and probably at Folkton.

V.C. 63: Bred at three localities in the Doncaster area, and at one in the Wakefield area. Occurred at 12 localities near Sheffield, and seven near Barnsley.

V.C. 64: Three pairs bred at two sites south of York, but otherwise only one pair located that may have bred.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

From records received apparently scarce in the north-east, and in the eastern half of V.C. 61, with breeding evidence from only one site in each area. However, 20 pairs were located in the area covered by the York Ornithological Club. Over 20 pairs located in V.C. 63, and probably bred at many more places. Stated to be widespread and relatively common in V.C. 64.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Quite widespread and apparently common in all parts of the county, with on average birds at a quarter of the sites located being proved to breed.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

V.C. 61: Records were infrequent and numbers low in the early months, apart from a roost at Driffield which had nine on 7th February. Three pairs bred at two sites near York. More records in the autumn months particularly from Spurn and Flamborough.

V.C. 62: Singles at two localities early in the year.

V.C. 63: Six in the Haw Park roost on 4th January, and seven on 22nd December. Three at Thorpe Marsh on 18th and 30th December. Singles at Carlton Marsh on several dates in May, June, September, and December when there were two on 23rd and 24th. Singles at five other localities, and breeding reported from three sites.

V.C. 64: A pair bred in the Settle area. One at Fairburn Ings on 28th February.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

A good year for the species in most parts of the county.

V.C. 61: Bred at two sites, and probably bred at a third. Good numbers along the Humber east of Hull with seven on 17th January; nine on 14th February; eight on 19th September and five on 23rd October. Up to five at Spurn in early October, and four in early November. Cowden Range had up to five in the early months, and four at the year end. October peaks at Flamborough of seven on 7th, and at Filey of five in off the sea on the 9th. Possibly up to ten in the Lower Derwent in December.

V.C. 62: A breeding attempt at Strensall Common terminated after a fire. Three at Flixton Carr on 16th January and 14th March, and at Charm Park on 13th February. Singles in off the sea at Scarborough on 10th October and 7th November.

V.C. 63: Seven pairs reared ten young on moorlands west of Halifax. Probably breeding at three other localities. Widespread in the lowlands both early and late in the year, with five at Blacktoft Sands on 25th February, and up to four at the year end, and maxima of four, at Wath Ings on 14th January; at Whitley Common on 13th October, and at Thorpe Marsh on 2nd and 9th December.

V.C. 64: Two pairs certainly bred, and a third may have done. Up to four at many lowland sites in the early months, but fewer during the autumn.

V.C. 65: Reported from three localities on a few dates, and regularly from Feldom Moor.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

V.C. 61: First one on 13th May at Skipwith Common where three males held territory, but only one pair bred due to reduction of suitable habitat by a fire in May. Bred at Allerthorpe Common. Two singing males near Wheldrake on 13th June, and one at Flamborough on 19th.

V.C. 62: Bred at Strensall Common. At three well recorded forest sites the first male occurred on 13th May; the maximum numbers of males were respectively five, two and one; with three females and a juvenile at one site on 25th August. Two pairs in Wykeham Forest on 7th July.

V.C. 63: Singles at two localities, and on Hatfield Moor which had the first on 13th May, and last on 8th September. No counts undertaken at the latter site.

Swift *Apus apus*

Singles at Broomhill Flash on 20th, and Gouthwaite Res. on 25th, and two at Fairburn Ings on 26th April, and then after a few more individuals, the species became widespread from 3rd May

to 9th May appearing in many parts of the county, with 50 at Thrybergh Res. on 3rd; 120 at Wath Ings on 4th; and 200 at Thorpe Marsh, and 250 at Ingbirchworth on 9th May. At least a dozen localities had 200 to 400, mainly in June and August, as their maxima.

Higher concentrations or movements included 1,200 at Fairburn Ings on 11th, and 1,500 at Lundwood S.F. on 19th June; 730 west at Swillington Ings on 20th July; 769 at Redmires on 19th, 1,000 at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th, 630 at Tophill Low on 21st, and 550 at Wath Ings on 21st August.

At Flamborough southerly movements peaked at 1,200 on 27th June, and 9,500 on 3rd July, and at Spurn, 2,000 on 27th and 4,000 on 28th June, and 5,000 on 4th and 3,500 on 10th July.

Considerably more frequently noted than usual in September; at least 16 records in October; and in November singles at Spurn on 6th and 8th; two at Flamborough on 9th, and one at Osgodby on 10th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo athis*

V.C. 61: Breeding, or probable breeding in eight localities.

V.C. 62: Bred in Troutsdale rearing seven young, and present at four other sites during the spring.

V.C. 63: Bred at seven localities, and probably at many more of the 52 others on record.

V.C. 64: Bred at four sites, and possibly at two more.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Singles at Hunmanby on 18th May (Mr and Mrs TWS), and at Spurn on 20th May (MEB, KD).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Roller *Coracias garrulus*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 26th September (BA).

Not accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One found dead at a roadside near Fangfoss on 26th April. Singles in a Harrogate garden on 12th (GTF), and at Ferrensby from 24th to 26th May (Dr JF). One at Flamborough from 29th August to 7th September (PAL *et al*), and one at Spurn on 31st August.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

A small influx during May, with one at Spurn on 6th; two on 8th, and one on 9th and 10th; one at Flamborough on 7th and 8th and two on 9th; one at Filey Brigg from 12th to 14th, and one killed by a car at North Newbald on 23rd.

Two at Sammy's Point near Easington on 6th September, with one remaining to 15th. Singles at Spurn on 19th September, and 9th October, and at Flamborough on 10th October.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Although a pair probably bred at Dane's Dyke, Flamborough the species remains scarce in the eastern half of V.C. 61. Widely reported in V.C. 62, and around the York area. The increase noted in the Doncaster area in 1981 appears to have been sustained. Widespread reports in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 suggest a good breeding population, although the total reported for the two vice-counties was only nine pairs.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

A good breeding population reported from all parts of the county including two pairs breeding at Hornsea Mere and one at Grimston in Holderness where the species appears to be increasing. Singles considered to show characteristics of the Northern race, *D.m. major* at Flamborough on 16th October, and near Everingham on 28th December (DIMW).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Breeding season records from seven localities near York, and from 12 in V.C. 63, including one pair breeding. A poor year in V.C. 64, with only one pair breeding. A few winter records in the area east of York, but more widespread in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, outside the breeding season.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

One in the Easington area was seen on 12th, 13th and 19th June (NAB *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Comittee.

Short-toed Lark N. A. Bell

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One at Spurn from 7th to 9th November.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Numbers at inland localities in the early months were quite moderate, with about 100 at three places, 173 on Dunnington Common on 16th January; 150 on Doncaster Airfield on 21st March and 169 at Lodge Moor on 23rd March. 193 flew south over Fairburn Ings on 6th January. Apart from 350 at Riccall on 18th December, only two places had flocks of 100 at the year end.

Southerly movement at Flamborough of 550 on 6th January, and 420 on 9th October, and at Grimston 300 on 30th October. Good passage at Spurn during the autumn peaked at 325 on 30th September; 1,143 on 21st October; 326 on 2nd, 302 on 8th, and 311 on 9th November. 165 feeding in the Spurn area in December.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

The only early records were of two in the Easington Lagoon area on 16th and 23rd January, and three south over Spurn on 22nd February.

One at Flamborough on 19th September, and two on 9th October. At Spurn singles on 6th and 7th October; four on 9th, three on 10th, two on 23rd, and one on 30th October. Four at Beacon Lane ponds, Kilnsea on 24th October, and six there on 26th. Singles at Spurn on 7th and 17th November. Two at Filey on 6th November and probably the same birds on 28th November, 4th, 5th and 11th December.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

One at Pugney's G.P. on 16th March; two at Bubwith on 21st; one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th; two at Walton, and one at Tophill Low on 25th, at two sites on 26th, and at seven sites on 27th March, with an increasing spread in early April.

150 at Wintersett Res. on 8th April; 300 at Hay-a-Park on 29th April, and at Fairburn Ings on 2nd May.

Large congregations in the autumn, mainly at roosts, of 3,000 at Swillington Ings on 25th July; 10,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 30th July, and 15,000 on 1st August; 2,500 at Mickletown Ings on 2nd August; 1,000 at Pugney's G.P. on 8th August and 4th September, and at Fairburn Ings on 19th August; 5,000 at Leventhorpe on 17th August, and at Hornsea Mere on 25th September, but none there on 26th.

Up to four at several places in early October, and late singles at York on 20th; Filey on 24th; Spurn on 27th; and Flamborough on 29th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Singles at Fairburn Ings on 28th and Knotford Nook on 29th March, and two at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd April and at Bretton Park on 4th. Although small numbers were widespread during the next two weeks it was from 19th April to the month end that significant numbers arrived.

A poor breeding season was reported from some areas, in part due to wet conditions in June.

Most roosts had their maximum numbers during September, the highest being: 5,000 each at Sprotbrough, Carlton Marsh on 1st, and Monkton on 18th; 3,000 at Wintersett on 16th; 40,000 at Worsbrough on 14th, and 35,000 at Fairburn Ings on 16th. A big decline at Wheldrake and Aughton Ings, down to 300 and 500 respectively.

Spurn had a total of 25 during November including 13 on 1st and one on 11th, and singles at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd; Grenoside on 3rd (two); Beverley, Westwood on 7th; Fairburn Ings on 9th; Hornsea Mere on 13th; and over Hornsea on 20th.

Southerly passage at Spurn from August to October totalled 22,423 with the peaks on 14th and 15th September of 3,117 and 2,723 respectively.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

First ones at Thrybergh Res. on 6th April, and at Harrogate and Naburn S.W. (five) on 7th; and on 8th one to four at Knotford Nook, Wintersett Res., Denaby Ings, Sprotbrough Flash plus ten at Castle Howard. Arrivals in most areas from 21st April onwards.

500 at Sprotbrough Flash on 16th July, and at Lundwood S.F. on 24th August. 1,000 at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th August, and 300 there on 10th September. 350 at Kettlethorpe in late September, and 100 to 200 at nine localities during the autumn.

November records of one to two at 12 localities up to the 9th; with late individuals at Spurn on 13th (five) and 14th; at Beverley, Westwood on 14th (five) and 21st, and at Sprotbrough Flash on 25th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaseelandiae*

Two at Flamborough on 6th October (AMA), and one on 23rd and 24th October (AMA, JH, DIMW *et al*).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

One at Spurn from 22nd to 25th October (GC, BRS *et al*).

The second county record.

Still under consideration by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Olive-backed Pipit J. M. Pinder

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd and Harrogate S.F. on 10th April; then one to three at Bretton Park, Haw Park, Woodsome near Huddersfield, Howell Wood, Roche Abbey, and Newmillerdam between 12th and 15th April, and after arrivals at a few other localities the main distribution took place in early May.

More October records than usual with singles at Pugney's G.P. on 6th; at Flamborough and Grimston (two) on 9th; at Withernsea on 11th, and at Spurn one to two on seven dates up to the 12th, and one on 4th November.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Flocks in the early months although widespread in the south and central areas of the county, nowhere numbered more than 50, with up to 100 at a few localities by early April.

Coastal passage in September and October, with the highest numbers moving south at Spurn, the peaks being 3,892 on 13th, and 6,041 on 29th September. Considerable passage recorded inland particularly east of York, with good numbers moving west and south during the period 12th September to 9th October. Up to 100 in a day at several sites in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, but exceptional counts of 660 south over Concord Park, Sheffield in 80 minutes on 29th; and 1,032 west at Redmires Res. in two hours on 30th September.

Autumn flocks of 235 near Sunk Island on 19th September; 140 on Eccup Moor on 10th October, and 210 at Bank Island near York on 26th December, and 75 to 100 at 11 more localities.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

One at Spurn on 19th May (BAR). The fifth county record.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Bred as usual along rocky coastal stretches north of Bridlington. Wintered along the coast south of Bridlington, and along the Humber shore. Of 16 records of singles at inland sites, nine were during October.

Individuals showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.s. littoralis*, at Hornsea Mere on 13th; Tophill Low Res. on 20th (two); Flamborough on 20th (four); Sunk Island on 21st (two); three each at Barmston and Bridlington on 27th March; and one at Flamborough on 2nd April. A probable Water Pipit, *A.s. spinoletta*, at Naburn S.W. on 4th and 31st January.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The first was very early on 22nd March in the York area at Hagg Bridge, followed by singles in early April at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 4th; Blacktoft Sands and Carr Vale on 5th; Harrogate S.F., Thrybergh Res. and Potteric Carr on 6th, and Naburn S.W. and Tophill Low Res. (four) on 7th. Larger numbers arrived from mid month to early May. Moderate spring maxima of 45 at Harrogate S.F. on 21st, and 60 at Hornsea Mere on 24th April; 60 at Riccall, and 50 at Malham Tarn on 1st; 40 at Wath Ings and 50 at Pugney's G.P. on 5th, and 100 at Tophill Low Res. on 7th May.

Apart from 160 at Wath Ings on 7th, and 250 at Potteric Carr on 9th September autumn counts were low, with 50 at only three other places.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Blue-headed race, *M.f. flava*, were reported from many localities, particularly in the east of the county. At Spurn a pair again attempted to breed, and were present up to 15th June. Three others at Spurn on 13th and 14th May, and one on 28th August. Singles in late April and in May on various dates at Patrington Haven, Tophill Low Res., Flamborough, Hornsea Mere, Fairburn Ings, Elvington S.W., Stillingfleet, Tinsley S.F., Blacktoft Sands, and Wath Ings. At Naburn S.W., one on 12th April, then up to nine from 24th April to mid May, and three females feeding young there in June. At Wheldrake Ings two on 25th April and up to four in early May. A female carrying food at Hagg Bridge between 19th May and 9th June, and one feeding young in the nest near North Duffield on 20th June. Five at Flamborough on 22nd May. At Thrybergh Res. three on 23rd and two on 24th April; and during May individuals on 27 days, including three on 3rd May. A male *M.f. flavissima* paired, with an apparent female *M.f. flava* at Howell Wood, from 9th May to 22nd June when a fledged juvenile was fed by an adult. Five at Gilberdyke on 19th September.

Birds showing characteristics of the Grey-headed race, *M.f. thunbergi*, were one at Spurn from 13th to 16th, and two each at Hornsea Mere (SML, IJP), and Filey Brigg on 15th May (MF, DJW).

Singles showing characteristics of the Ashy-headed race, *M.f. cinerocapilla*, at Blacktoft Sands from 14th to 16th (AG) and at Flamborough on 22nd May (PAL).

One showing characteristics of Sykes's Wagtail, *M.f. beema*, at Withernsea on 16th May (SML).

One showing characteristics of the Kirghiz Steppes race, *M.f. lutea* at Flamborough on 1st June (DIMW).

Late Yellow Wagtails at 13 places during October, the last being singles on 17th at Lundwood S.F. and Adwick S.F.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Breeding was not proved at any site in V.C. 61. Widespread breeding records from valleys in the upland areas of the Dales, the Southern Pennines and the Yorkshire Moors, but scarcer than usual in V.C. 64 following the severe winter weather.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

The largest roost counts in the early months included one at Shepcote Lane in the Sheffield area with 211 on 23rd January and 243 on 8th March; 170 at Naburn S.W. on 6th February, and 95 at Harrogate S.F. on 22nd March. 25 roosted on a flat-roofed building in Malton during

February. Autumn gatherings and roosts were larger with 150 at Pool Paper Mills on 13th July; 100 at Potteric Carr on 29th July; 130 at Harrogate S.F. on 20th August; 103 at Naburn S.W. on 6th and 100 at Settle S.F. on 10th September, and 106 at Lundwood S.F. on 2nd October, and 50 to 80 at seven other places.

Birds showing characteristics of White Wagtail, *M.a. alba*, at over 20 localities between 30th March and 9th May, with seven at Treeton Dyke on 18th April. Outside this period singles at Spurn on 4th June, and Elvington in mid September.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Singles during January at Bramley and Poppleton on 1st; Doncaster on 7th; Pontefract on 16th; Filey Brigg on 18th, and Copmanthorpe on 20th. Two regularly at Tadcaster Road, York from 22nd January to 19th February, and four on 29th January, and two near the Merchant Adventurers Hall, York on 20th February. One at Whiston from 20th February to 1st March, and one in Hull on 2nd and 3rd March. Six at Denby Dale on 22nd and 23rd February, and at Alwoodley on 21st March. One at Ossett from 2nd to 23rd February.

One at Easington on 16th October, and two at Hall Dike, Huddersfield on 30th October, and 1st November.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Some decline in the upper reaches of the Ribble and in lower Wharfedale, but elsewhere in the Dales and in the South Pennines reasonable breeding populations were maintained. Few records received from V.C. 61 (scarce), V.C. 62 and V.C. 65, but doubtless the species flourishes in the two latter vice-counties.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The effects of the cold spell were variable with some decline in the Leeds, Harrogate, Doncaster, Wakefield, and Huddersfield areas but the species survived well in the east, and centre of the county around York.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Some decline in breeding numbers reported from Askham Bryan and Fairburn Ings. 45 different individuals handled at Spurn on 11th October.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

An obvious influx during October at both coastal and inland sites. Ten at Nostell, and 50 at Bretton Park on 3rd; on 10th, up to 90 at Flamborough; 50 at Filey; six at Castle Hill, Scarborough; 30 at Grimston; 54 on Hatfield Moors; eight at Thrybergh Res., and numbers up at Tophill Low Res. and Settle, whilst Spurn had a peak of 60 in the period between 6th and 15th; and 70 at Flamborough on 13th, and 37 at Fairburn Ings on 16th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Singles at Spurn on 6th May; Flamborough on 29th May, and Elvington on 14th July. Three males on Hatfield Moors from 26th April to 2nd July.

Correction to the 1981 Report: delete 'at Finningley on 15th May (AM)'.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

A male of the red-spotted race, *L.s. svecica* at Flamborough on 14th May (PAL).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Spring passage along the coast commenced with one at Spurn on 21st March, and singles on six days to 31st; two to five from 3rd to 7th April; then one to three on eight days to 16th May, and one on 6th June. Flamborough had one on 28th March; two on 3rd and 11th April, and singles on 9th April and 2nd May. Singles at Filey Brigg on 3rd, 4th and 7th April, and 5th May. One at Osgodby on 2nd April.

Singles, inland, at Adel on 31st March and Thorpe Marsh on 1st April. Four pairs bred in Sheffield.

Daily at Flamborough from 18th July to 7th November, including juveniles in July, with a peak of five on 30th October. A juvenile at Filey Brigg on 31st July, and singles on 9th and 11th October, and 27th November. Singles at Spurn on six dates between 3rd and 22nd October; two on 23rd, nine on 28th October, then one to three to 9th November. One at Kilnsea on 23rd October, and two on 31st October. Singles at Scalby on 17th September; at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 10th and 18th October, and at Silpho on 18th. One at Withernsea on 7th November.

Other singles well inland at Lindley Moor, Huddersfield on 13th September; at Harrogate on 1st and 2nd November, and at York University on 10th November.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The earliest records in April were singles at Fairburn Ings on 7th; John o'Gaunts, Harrogate on 12th; Tophill Low Res. and Spurn on 18th; Shroggs Park in Halifax, Commondale and Flamborough on 20th, with wider distribution from early May onwards.

Good numbers breeding in parts of V.C. 62; more than usual recorded in the York area; good numbers breeding in the Dales, but few in the lowland areas of V.C. 64, and only moderate numbers breeding in the Pennine valleys of V.C. 63.

Coastal passage was light, with 16 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 6th September; 32 at Flamborough on 6th October, then 33 from 8th to 10th October; during which dates Spurn had an autumn peak of 16; and Filey had 12 on 10th October.

The last inland was one at Thrybergh on 7th October, and on the coast one at Spurn on 22nd October.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Singles at Hagg Bridge near York and Walshaw Dene on 20th April; Thorpe Marsh on 21st, and at Spofforth, Ewden, Carlton Marsh and South Anston on 25th; with a general arrival from 2nd to 8th May. Ten at Spurn and 12 at Flamborough on 13th May.

No apparent change in breeding status with good numbers in the upland areas of the Dales, Pennines and Moors.

High counts inland included 17 at Scammonden on 13th June; eight pairs in Wheeldale on 26th June; 14 at Fairburn Ings on 22nd, and ten at Wilsic on 28th August.

Moderate autumn passage along the coast with peaks of 46 at Spurn in late August; 35 at Filey on 6th September, and 32 at Flamborough on 25th. An influx on 6th October of 11 at Filey; seven at Grimston; 14 at Easington and 11 at Spurn.

Several October singles inland with the last ones at Redmires on 13th, and Potteric Carr on 24th. Singles in November at Filey Brigg on 1st; Withernsea on 7th, and at Spurn up to the 28th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

V.C. 61: In the early months singles at Spurn and Filey, and two at Cowden. One to three at Spurn on 14 dates from 5th October to 1st November. Singles at Filey on five dates between 6th October and 12th December; one at Flamborough on 10th October, and one at Heslington on 20th. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 24th October and 9th November, and near Everingham on 29th December, and two at Cowden during December.

One showing characteristics of the race *S.t. maura* at Flamborough from 13th to 23rd October.

V.C. 63: Singles, during February at Wadworth on 7th, and Broomhead Moor on 16th; during March at Blacktoft on 6th; Carlton on 7th; Elland G.P. on 13th; Lodge Moor on 20th and Potteric Carr on 21st.

Singles at Attercliffe Common on 2nd and 3rd May, and in the Grimescar Valley, Huddersfield on 2nd May.

More records in the autumn, with one to two at Blacktoft Sands from 16th October; one at Thorpe Marsh from 29th November; at Potteric Carr on 23rd October and 28th December; at Thrybergh Banks on 15th November and 14th and 28th December, and at Langsett on 11th December.

V.C. 64: One at Parlington Park on 10th January.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Typical arrival dates, with the first at Lodge Moor on 22nd March, then singles at Buckstones on 23rd; Crummackdale on 24th; Walshaw Dene and Whitley Common on 25th; Digley and Filey Brigg (two) on 27th, and at five other places on 28th.

25 at Flamborough on 4th April, but coastal passage peaked in early May, with 43 at Spurn on 5th and 38 on 11th; 50 at Flamborough on 8th, and 26 along the Humber near Welwick on 9th.

Individuals probably of the Greenland race, *O.o. leucorrhoa*, during May at Spurn, Filey, Flamborough, near Leeds, and at Whitley Common, with the highest count at Flamborough of 17 on 8th and 9th May.

Some reports of a drop in breeding numbers in the Dales.

Numbers at inland localities during the autumn were quite low, the largest group being eight at Wilsic on 28th August.

Autumn coastal passage was moderate with peaks on 6th September of 22 at Filey; 35 at Flamborough, and 41 at Spurn. Singles at Spurn on 6th and 9th November, and inland two at Potteric Carr on 7th, and one at Thrybergh on 8th November.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

One at Digley on 25th March, and nine there on 30th; singles at Filey Brigg, Commondale, Angram and Buckstones Moss on 27th, and at Rishworth Moor and Lower Barden Res. on 28th. One to two at Wath Ings, Hatfield Moor and Thorpe Marsh during April. Obvious coastal passage at several localities in early May, with six at Flamborough on 7th.

Breeding status reported as normal in the southern Pennines.

Three at Easington on 23rd October, and the last along the coast, one at Spurn on 28th.

Individuals at six sites in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 during October, with one at Wadsley Common on 27th, but by far the latest was one at Colsterdale on 6th December (RG).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

The only roost counts reported for January were of 400 at York University, and 240 at Headingley.

A moderate influx in early October included 60 at Scarborough on 10th, but the first major arrival was around the 24th October with 350 at Spurn, 1,800 at Flamborough, and 230 off the sea at Filey, then 1,000 at Spurn on 29th October. On 5th and 6th November, 550 and 250 respectively at Spurn; 1,300 and 900 at Flamborough, and up to 300 at Filey.

The late October and early November influx was noted at many inland sites, particularly at the York University roost, with counts of 250 on 11th November, which increased to 500 by the month end; then 1,000 on 12th December, and declined to 700 by the 31st. 231 at Moss Valley, Sheffield on 7th; 250 at Headingley on 11th, and 900 at Anchor Plain, York on 12th December.

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

Addition to the 1981 Report: One at Aldbrough from 16th to 23rd April (AJJ, BP, DIMW).

The first record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

During the hard weather at the beginning of the year numbers were low throughout the county. Flocks of 150 at Filey, Flamborough and Atwick had all left by 13th January. 200 at Storwood east of York on 24th January was the largest flock reported apart from 350 at Fulford Ings on 2nd February, until the commencement of the return passage in mid-March.

Flocks of 200 to 500 at 11 places during March and April and at least 500 each at Airton on 28th March; Glasshouses on 30th March; Whitley Common on 1st April; Wike on 4th; Hugset Wood on 22nd, and Royd House Wood on 25th April. 1,137 flew north over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 9th April.

Small numbers recorded during May from at least 20 places.

Two at Spurn on 6th and 15th June, and one at Fairburn Ings on 15th.

An adult at a locality near Huddersfield from 15th to 17th July with four fully-fledged young on 16th July.

Small numbers at Spurn during August (one) and September before a very substantial and well-recorded autumn passage commenced on 2nd October. During October flocks of 200 to 1,000 at 14 localities, plus on 21st, 1,020 in Moss Valley; on 23rd, 2,000 in the Ewden Valley, and on 28th 1,039 over Redmires Res. Even higher numbers during November and December, with flocks of 200 to 1,000 at 25 and 20 localities respectively. 1,000 each at Hutton Conyers, Thorpe Marsh, Pulfin Fen and Lofthouse in early November; 1,350 west over Wheldrake on 10th November; 1,036 west over Hall Dike on 17th; 2,500 at Fairburn Ings on 6th; 2,000 in the Lower Derwent on 7th, and at Wentworth on 17th November; and up to 1,500 at Wath Ings. 1,500 at Nun Appleton on 5th, and at Storwood on 13th December. On 24th December, 2,000 at Silkstone and 3,000 between Bishopthorpe and Wharfe Ings. On 25th December, 1,690 at Oxton and 4,000 at Healaugh. Westerly movements over Tadcaster of 4,000 from 23rd to 25th, and over Wath Ings of 2,900 from 27th to 31st December.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

A good autumn influx, with peaks along the coast of 90 at Spurn on 6th October; 20 each at Filey and Scarborough on 7th and 10th October; 180 at Flamborough on 8th October; 200 on 13th, and 180 on 5th November, and up to 40 at Hornsea Mere on 10th and 11th October.

200 at York University on 7th October; 60 at Denaby Ings on 15th November; and during December, 30 at Wath Ings and 35 at Fairburn Ings on 10th, and 70 at Anchor Plain, York on 12th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Quite scarce in the early months, with a very moderate return passage. 70 at Filey on 6th January and 270 at Grimescar, Huddersfield on 24th. 220 in the Hall Dike valley near Huddersfield on 12th March, and 140 at Stearsby on 10th April, were the only other flocks of over 100. Late singles at Thorpe Marsh and Acaster Malbis on 27th April, and at Carlton Marsh on 4th, and Tophill Low Res. on 7th May, and two at Spurn on 19th May.

One in song at a North Yorks Moors site on 7th June.

A scattering of records in late September and early October, with the autumn passage commencing on 5th with 100 at Spurn, 2,200 at Flamborough on 7th October, and 2,900 on 13th. Hundreds in the Vale of Pickering, and 500 at Malham Tarn on 8th October. Westerly movement on 9th of 1,530 at Knaresborough Ringing Station, and 500 in one and a half hours over Castle Howard. 1,000 at Spurn on 11th October, and 200 to 400 at five inland sites during that month.

The highest counts in November were 1,600 at Flamborough on 5th; 800 at Wheldrake Ings on 7th; 730 at Hall Dike on 17th, with 200 to 500 at five sites in V.C. 63, and about 500 at six sites in V.C. 64, plus 640 at Shadwell, Leeds on 13th. 675 at Thorp Arch on 3rd December; 1,100 at Anchor Plain on 12th, and 910 at Tadcaster on 23rd December.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Most flocks reported were of less than 30 except for those at Sand Moor Golf Course, 33 on 15th August, and at Sprotbrough, 60 on 21st November. 65 flew into Tophill Low from the south on 31st December, and after a brief stay departed southwards. Interesting movements over Redmires Res. of 27 west and 17 south on 24th September; 53 south-west on 30th September, and 63 south-west on 3rd October.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

One at Blacktoft Sands from 26th September to 1st October (AG *et al*).

The second record for the county.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Singles at Wheldrake Ings and Hackenthorpe on 12th April, and at Cowden on 17th. One at Mickletown Ings on 24th April and singles at Roche Abbey, Thorpe Marsh and Carlton Marsh on 25th.

Singing birds at six sites in V.C. 61, and a good breeding population located at Cowden. Bred at several sites in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, but generally numbers were low, and although up to 20 sang at Parlington Park only four pairs bred there.

Singles at Pool Paper Mills on 22nd August, and in a York garden on 12th September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One at Tinsley S.F. on 6th April was exceptionally early. Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 13th April; Sprotbrough Flash on 20th; Fairburn Ings and Wheldrake Ings on 23rd; Wath Ings, Potteric Carr and Tophill Low Res. on 24th, and at Wintersett Res. on 25th April.

Breeding numbers in the Wakefield area are declining at the main sites, with 21 singing males at Mickletown Ings; 14 at Swillington Ings, and 11 at Wintersett Res. At least 17 pairs at Wath Ings; 31 pairs at Fairburn Ings, and 24 singing males at Bishop Monkton. In V.C. 61, Tophill Low Res. had 50 pairs; Hornsea Mere 70 pairs; Cowden Range and Haverfield Ponds, 30 pairs each. Possibly 150 males at Wheldrake Ings on 16th May.

Late singles at Hagg Bridge and Catcliffe on 26th September; at Hay-a-Park on 30th; at Blacktoft Sands on 1st October (two); at Wintersett Res. on 2nd, and Filey on 6th October.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

One singing in the Spurn Point dunes on 3rd June. One at Filey Brigg from 7th to 10th October (SC, PJD, HJW).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd April; at Tophill Low Res., Potteric Carr, Fairburn Ings, Haverfield Ponds and Wheldrake Ings (two) on 25th, and at Mickletown Ings on 26th April.

The breeding population would appear to be holding its own, with more than usual recorded near York, including 12 pairs at Wheldrake Ings. 400 pairs estimated at Blacktoft Sands. 16 pairs at Fairburn Ings, and 22 males singing at Mickletown Ings on 7th June.

Individuals singing from fields of oil-seed rape in Holderness.

Two males singing at Seamer Road Mere on 18th June.

Ten at Blacktoft Sands on 14th and one on 20th October. Singles at Orgreave on 4th; Flamborough on 10th, and at Spurn on 15th October.

A very late bird caught and ringed at Wintersett Res. on 7th November.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

One on the south side of Castle Hill, Scarborough from 11th to 13th October (MW, MM, RHA *et al*).

The third record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Singles at the Warren at Spurn on 1st, 6th and 28th August, and one at Flamborough on 28th (PAL).

One inland at Wilsic, south of Doncaster, on 14th August (KR).

Addition to the 1981 Report: One at Kilnsea on 10th September (DHur).

Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda*

A singing male on Mickleden Edge south of Langsett from 15th May to at least 24th July (GL, JL *et al*).

The first record for the county, and also for Britain.

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

A male at the Warren at Spurn from 4th to 6th June (BRS *et al*). The first record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Singles at Flamborough on 7th August, and 5th, 19th and 26th September (PAL, PD *et al*). One at Grimston on 31st August (AWW). One at Filey Brigg on 6th September (TH).

The remainder were all at Spurn as follows: two on 28th and 29th, one on 30th, and three on 31st August; one to two from 1st to 6th September, with five on 5th; singles on 14th, 19th and 22nd; three on 18th September; and singles on 3rd, 5th, 10th, 18th and 25th October.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Singles at Wath Ings on 22nd April; Bretton Park on 23rd; Muston on 26th; Sprotbrough on 28th, and at Scalby on 30th April, with a more general arrival after the first week in May. Some spring passage at coastal sites, with 14 at Flamborough on 12th May; ten at Grimston on 17th May, and 12 at Spurn in mid-May.

With individuals located at 30 sites in the York area, and with ten records from the Scarborough area, there is good reason to believe that the species is spreading slowly in parts of the county.

One at Malham Tarn Woods on 12th May, an unusual location for the species. 14 males singing in Parlington Park in early June. Nine caught at Wintersett Res. on 16th July, where there were two on 25th September. Other late records at Burniston on 19th and Rivelin on 29th September, and at Spurn on 7th and 21st October.

Birds showing characteristics of the Siberian race, *S.c. blythi*, at Spurn on 11th and 12th October, and at Flamborough on 10th and 16th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

The first one was at Brind in the York area on 14th April, followed by singles at Wath Ings on 18th; Heslington and Wheldrake on 22nd; Fairburn Ings, Howell Wood and Potteric Carr (two) on 24th, and Haverfield Ponds on 25th April, the main influx being from 5th May onwards.

50 at Spurn on 11th May. A healthy increase is taking place in V.C. 61, and in the York area. Appears to be increasing slowly in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64. 35 on Hatfield Moors on 8th May. At least 16 territories in Wadworth Wood, and probably 20 at Cowden Range. 87 ringed at Wintersett, the highest annual total there to date. 25 at Moorhouse near Doncaster on 31st August.

Late birds at Howell Wood on 28th September; Leventhorpe, Leeds on 6th October; Flamborough on 16th, and Spurn on 10th and 23rd October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One at Edlington Wood on 14th April; one at Castle Howard on 15th, and one in the Porter Valley on 16th April. Singles at Bishop Wilton on 20th; Wilsic on 21st; Owston Wood on 23rd April, when there were two at Dunnington Common. The main arrival took place between 5th and 10th May.

Indications are that breeding status was normal in most areas. 12 males in Howell Wood in late May.

Heaviest autumn passage on 6th September, with five on Castle Hill, Scarborough; 27 at Flamborough, and 25 at Spurn. Six at Filey Brigg on 6th October.

Singles at Swillington on 16th October; Filey and Flamborough on 30th; Spurn on 31st October, and at Spurn and Flamborough on 4th November.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Overwintering birds on various dates from January to March at Ilkley, Haxby, Moortown, Harrogate, Grimescar (Huddersfield), and Naburn.

Singles at six places from 4th to 9th April, with a more widespread influx from 16th April.

A large influx noted at coastal localities in October after most breeding birds had left the county. Spurn had 48 on 6th; 51 on 9th; 90 on 11th and 50 on 21st October; Flamborough had 100 from 6th to 8th and 55 on 10th October, and later 22 from 4th to 7th November; and 40 were on Scarborough's Castle Hill on 10th October. Some remained in these coastal sites into December, and inland records from mid-October to the year-end were extremely frequent, with birds at 37 localities, usually singles but up to three at some places, and four at Worsbrough.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Two, caught and ringed at Spurn on 6th September, remained to the 8th and 9th respectively (BB, BRS *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

A record year in the British Isles, with higher numbers than ever before in the county.

Singles in the Spurn and Kilnsea areas on 9th, 10th and 14th October (MAH *et al*); on 15th (JB, JC); from 21st to 25th (GN, BRS *et al*), and on 28th (SML, MQ *et al*). One at Filey Brigg on 10th October (HJW), and one at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 11th (CH, RH, MM).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Ten different individuals at Flamborough, their respective dates during October being, 10th to 13th; 11th to 13th; 13th to 15th (two); 13th to 16th; 16th to 17th; 30th and 30th to 31st, and during November, 7th and 9th (JH, DGH, PAL, AMA, AG, SR, DIMW).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Flamborough had two on 3rd October; one on 7th; four on 8th; two on 9th; three on 10th; one on 13th; two on 14th; one on 15th; three on 16th and 23rd; and singles on 24th, 30th and 31st October, and 3rd, 7th and 12th November. 12 to 15 individuals considered to be involved at Flamborough (PAL *et al*).

One at Grimston on 5th October (AWW), and one at Sammy's Point on 9th (NAB).

The Kilnsea and Spurn area had four on 6th October; two on 8th; three on 9th; two on 10th; one on 11th; two on 12th, and one on 14th October.

One inland at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 23rd October (PTT).

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Singles at Flamborough from 11th to 13th October (AG, AMA, PAL); from 13th to 15th (AMA, DGH, GPC, PAD *et al*), and on 17th October (JMP, PAL, PHS).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

One at Spurn on 30th October (JC, CJM-G *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Second to fifth records for the county.

Radde's Warbler N. A. Bell

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Singles on 23rd April at Owston Wood, Woolley Wood and Shipley Glen; two on 24th at Margery Wood, Cawthorne; and singles on 27th at Malham Tarn and near Harrogate.

Widespread breeding records from the usual localities in V.C.s 62 and 64. Increasing in V.C. 63. Eight at Hardcastle Crags on 28th May, and seven in the Ewden Valley on 1st June.

Only a few August records from inland sites, and the last were singles on the coast at Flamborough on 8th September and Filey on 10th October.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

One at Fairburn Ings on 17th January was the only winter record, before the first arrived at Flamborough on 13th March, and near Lindley Res. on 18th March. These were followed by singles at Eccup on 21st March; Loxley Valley on 22nd; Newmillerdam on 23rd; South Cave and Frickley Park on 24th; Muston on 25th; Poppleton on 26th, and at ten more places on 27th and 28th.

No apparent change in breeding status.

A light autumn passage in early October, with 20 at Flamborough on 8th; seven at Filey on 9th, and at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 12th, and up to nine at Spurn.

At least 14 inland localities in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 had one to two during November and December. Three at Flamborough on 2nd December, and one at Hunmanby on 19th.

Individuals considered to be of the race *P.c. abietinus* at Flamborough during October and November. Birds apparently of the race *P.c. tristis* were at Filey during early October (one to two), and at Flamborough from 8th (two) to 10th October.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Although there were only two March records — singles at Tinsley on 20th, and Naburn on 30th — after further singles on 3rd April at Bretton, at Parlington Parks, and at Lawkland Moss, arrival was generally early, with widespread records from 4th to 9th, and larger numbers appeared from 10th to 20th April.

36 at Flamborough on 8th May, and 55 at Spurn on 11th.

33 at Filey on 7th August; 60 to 70 at Spurn from 19th to 22nd August, and 45 at Flamborough on 6th September.

Late singles at Kettlethorpe on 30th September, and Shirecliffe on 10th October; whilst at Spurn, after five on 8th October, two still remained on 12th October.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Rather scarce in the early months, 119 at Dunnington Common on 11th and 40 at Tophill Low Res. on 13th January being the highest counts.

Coastal passage in the spring, with on 20th March, 20 at Spurn and 42 at Filey; and on 3rd April, 29 at Flamborough.

A good influx in early October, with peaks of 100 on 9th and 120 on 11th at Spurn; 75 at Grimston on 9th; 70 at Filey and 150 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 10th; and 270 present at Flamborough from 8th to 10th.

Inland, 80 in the Ewden area on 24th October, and 60 at Lindley Res. during November, and 200 at Otley Chevin in late December.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

One at the Botanical Gardens, Sheffield on 3rd and 5th January (SJR). One at Atwick up to 15th January (WFC). Singles at Spurn from 14th to 18th March; on 27th March, and 22nd April. One at Kilnsea on 1st June.

One at Sawdon on 6th April (MFr).

One at Harrogate Golf Course on 19th August (PVI).

One at Filey Brigg on 6th September (TH).

During October, singles at Lodge Moor on 4th (KVT); Flamborough on 9th, 30th and 31st; at Spurn on 16th and 31st, and near Everingham on 31st (DIMW).

During November, singles at Langsett on 6th (DG); Ingbirchworth (RJP), and Castle Hill, Scarborough (IC *et al*) on 7th; at Woolley Wood on 9th and 10th (JPS); and at Flamborough, one on 6th; three on 7th; two on 9th, and one on 13th and 14th (PAL *et al*).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

One at Tinsley S.F. on 30th April. Singles on 4th May near Harrogate, and on 6th at Lindley Res. and Baildon, with a general arrival from 12th to 16th May.

A successful breeding season reported from several areas in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64. 20 in Frickley Park on 17th August.

The last inland were singles at Rivelin on 29th and Howell Wood on 30th September, and at Low Moor on 3rd October; and near the coast, at Spurn on 18th October, and Hornsea Mere on 6th November (SML).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Three at Flamborough on 6th September (AG, PAL) and one from 6th to 10th October (PB *et al*). Singles at Grimston on 7th October (AWW), and Filey Brigg on 10th (A & JD).

One at Spurn on 17th October, and one from 29th October to 4th November.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Early singles at Bingham Park on 18th April; Wath Wood on 22nd, and at Kilnsea and Sleightholmedale on 25th April. Eight in Strid Woods by 8th May, but apparently only a moderate breeding season in the Dales. Nine nest boxes were occupied in Sleightholmedale; average for the area.

One at Wath Ings on 29th August.

A light autumn passage. 33 at Spurn on 6th September.

Late singles at Filey on 13th, and Osgodby on 17th October; and at Flamborough on 24th October and 7th November.

Bearded Tit *Panarus biarmicus*

At Blacktoft Sands, 120 wintered in the early months; about 70 pairs nested, and 700 were present in September (AG).

One near Heslington, York on 10th February. At Fairburn Ings one flew north on 24th April, and one was there on 7th September.

Erupting birds from Blacktoft Sands doubtless accounted for the spread of records from October onwards.

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had seven on 3rd October, and birds were there frequently to the year end, with 24 on 10th October; 14 on 20th November, and up to seven in December (LAM). One at Haverfield Ponds on 17th October. On 19th October, 13 flew south from the point at Spurn. Two at Fairburn Ings on 21st October, and at Wheldrake Ings on the same date, with one there on 23rd, and five on 24th. One at Beacon Lane ponds, and two at Flamborough on 24th October. One at Spurn on 26th October, and four flying north on 27th. Hornsea Mere had individuals on several days in late October with nine on 25th, then singles on 9th November and 8th December, and two on 12th December (IJP, SML). Tophill Low Res. had two on 28th October and three on 30th; one on 29th November and three on 11th December (PB, KJA, IF, RL, IL). Up to ten at Faxfleet Pond from 20th November to the year-end (TAE), and four at Welton Water on 12th November (KR).

Three at Potteric Carr on 31st October; eight on 13th November, and two on 28th December (PS, RJS, SM). One across the River Aire from Fairburn Ings on 4th December. Four at Carlton Marsh from 5th to 28th December, two of which had been ringed at Ousefleet on 14th September.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Numbers were quite low in the early months apart from 61 at Dunnington Common on 11th January, and 33 at Eccup Res. on 18th January.

Would appear to have had a successful breeding season from the considerable number of flocks of 25 or more that were recorded. These included 43 at Millington on 11th July; 50 at Lindley Res. on 2nd, and at Harrogate S.F. on 24th October; 50 at Fairburn Ings on 7th November; 45 at Gouthwaite Res. on 13th; 54 at Moss Valley on 26th; 46 at Hatfield Moor on 27th November; 49 at Linacre Woods, Doncaster on 11th December; 80 at Skipwith on 12th; 50 at Potteric Carr on 25th, and 42 at Otley on 28th December.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Only reported from three localities in the east of V.C. 61.

Reasonably well distributed in the north part of the YOC area.

Reported from only six localities in V.C. 63, plus Roche Abbey, where a flock of ten on 1st June included juveniles. Continues to breed in the Dales in V.C. 64, but has a stronghold east of Leeds, including Bramham Park, where 12 pairs bred.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

An unprecedented 74 on Dunnington Common on 11th January.

There is evidence of a slight decline in the Huddersfield area, and none were proved to breed in the Harrogate area. It does, however, remain a more common and widespread species than the preceding one in V.C.s 61, 63 and 64.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

150 on Otley Chevin on 23rd December during severe weather.

30 at Tophill Low on 29th October.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

93 at Dunnington Common on 11th January.

120 at Tophill Low on 29th October, and 114 at Hall Dike, Huddersfield on 14th November. Large flocks near Otley at the end of the year, with 190 there from 22nd to 28th December; 100 at Otley Chevin on 23rd, and 160 at Arthington Hall on 29th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

The largest flocks reported were of 80 at Fountains Abbey on 6th March; 72 at Hall Dike, Huddersfield on 4th December, and 57 at Arthington Hall on 29th December.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Reports generally indicate a healthy situation, with a slight increase in some parts of the county.

Occasional records of birds well out of their normal range, such as one at Redmires Res. on 30th June, and two near Atwick on 17th July. Five singing in the Forge Valley on 9th May.

A further spread in the Sheffield area, with a pair breeding in Woolley Wood, and ten in Ecclesall Woods on 14th March. Bred at Roche Abbey and Firbeck Park.

11 pairs bred in the Leeds area, and 11 were in Roundhay Park on 23rd December.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

No apparent change in breeding numbers despite the severe weather early in the year.

Birds considered to be of the nominate race *C.f. familiaris* at Flamborough on seven dates between 9th October and 29th November, including three on 7th November (PAL *et al*).

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

The two that appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 25th November 1981 were last seen on 4th January (AG).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Singles at Filey Brigg on 11th May (EM); Spurn on 15th and 16th May; Flamborough on 27th May, and at Burstwick on 1st June (AC).

Single immatures at Spurn from 6th to 22nd September; at Bempton on 16th October (DIMW), and at Fairburn Ings on 13th November (JH, GRW).

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

One at Flamborough on 18th May (JL).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

One at Gouthwaite on 20th February. One at Carlton Industrial Estate from 15th February to 25th March. Singles at Wickersley on 4th March; Coal Aston on 14th; Broomhill Flash and Spurn on 21st March; and at Roche Abbey and Firbeck Park in April, and at Dacre Banks on 18th April.

One at Burniston, and three at Flamborough on 9th October; and five there, and one at Kilnsea on 10th.

Two at Flamborough on 12th, and singles from 14th to 16th October. One to three at Spurn from 12th to 14th October; one from 19th to 22nd, with another on 21st October. One at Cowden Range from 12th to 31st December.

Away from the coast, singles in October at Dacre Banks on 23rd; Thrybergh Res. on 28th and Ramsley Res. on 30th and 31st. During November, singles at Sutton-on-the-Forest on 7th and at Sprotbrough Flash on 20th. One near Gouthwaite Res. from 4th to 31st December, and singles at Anchor Plain on 17th, and at Knaresborough Ringing Station from 26th to 31st December.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

High counts on Hatfield Moors, with a peak of 48 on 10th October. 18 in the Upper Moss Valley on 7th December.

Considered to be a slight decrease in V.C. 64, especially in the Ripon and Bishop Monkton areas.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Roost counts of 80 in the Rivelin Valley on 17th January; 70 each at Eccup on 28th January, and Worsbrough on 28th February; and at Shadwell, 96 in February; 86 in March, and 115 in December. 96 roosted by Blackmoorfoot Res. on 9th February, and 83 on 5th December; and 73 each at Wintersett Res. on 11th and Askham Bog on 28th December.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

1,000 at Frickley Park in a roost, January to March. 1,000 at Ingbirchworth on 7th February.

600 at Knaresborough Ringing Station in July and August.

1,500 estimated roosting at Hornsea Mere in November and December.

Birds presumed to be of the Scandinavian race, *C.m. monedula*, at Flamborough on 16th and 23rd October, with about 40 and 50 respectively (DIMW, PAL *et al*).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

The roosts in the county are obviously under-recorded at present. The largest reported were those at Frickley Park with 10,000 in the early months, and a similar number at Cookridge, which included some Jackdaws.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

About 100 roosted in Harrogate during January, and the Eccup Res. roost peaked at 120 on 23rd September. Up to 50 were at Askham Bog Tip from August to the year end, and 225 roosted at Askham Bog on 28th December.

408 were in fields near Deffer Wood before dusk on 30th January, and 124 were near Cawthorne and Silkstone on 31st. 145 roosted by Ryburn Res. on 28th November, and 170 were in the Moss Valley in December.

120 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd September.

Pronounced passage at Flamborough with up to 90 a day between 9th and 12th April, and 200 on 23rd October. 52 south at Spurn on 24th October.

Hooded Crows, *C.c. cornix*, have become less frequent, particularly in V.C. 61, in recent years.

Most records were of singles, at Weel Tip on 6th January and 18th March; at Bransdale on 24th January; at Rudston on 13th and Cherry Cob on 14th February; at Flamborough on 28th February, 4th and 12th April (two); at Spurn on 20th and 23rd April (three), and at Filey on 29th May.

Further west one at Wilsic, Doncaster on 10th January, and one at Blacktoft Sands on 5th March.

At Spurn during November, one on 1st, 5th, 6th and 12th, and two on 3rd.

One at May Beck (V.C. 62) on 9th April.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Two flew north-east over Fairburn Ings on 6th September and one flew north there on 24th October. Two near Malham Tarn on 15th October, and one near Lofthouse on 30th December.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Roosts in the early months of 8,000 at Thornwick Bay during January, and 10,000 at Thorp Arch and Leeds City Centre. 5,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd January, and 28th August. Huddersfield town centre had 14,966 on 20th January; 17,784 on 10th March, and 14,047 on 25th August.

6,000 at Staveley on 7th July.

During September, 5,000 at Altofts Ings, 6,000 at Balby and about 50,000 at Hornsea Mere.

4,581 west over Redmires Res. on 23rd October, and 5,900 west over Thrybergh to roost on 7th November.

10,000 at Potteric Carr on 14th November, and 7,000 at Strensall Golf Course on 28th December.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Flocks of 500 at several places during the autumn, and over 800 on a farm tip at Withernsea on 12th September.

Southerly passage at Spurn, on 37 days between 19th September and 19th November, totalled 4,868.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Only one substantial flock in the early months, 100 at Sprotbrough Flash on 1st January.

During September, 110 at Hagg Bridge on 7th; 115 at Hollym Carrs on 12th, and 140 at Haverfield Ponds on 19th, 250 at Wadworth Wood on 5th October.

Some southerly passage at Spurn peaked at 139 on 20th October. A flock of 220 at Skelbrooke Tip on 6th November: 100 at Wortley on 13th December, and 110 at Thrybergh Banks at the year end.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Flocks of 100 to 200 at five places in the first three months, and at six places in the last two months.

Westerly movement over Redmires Res. included 336 on 30th September, and 453 on 4th October. 363 in Moss Valley, Sheffield on 30th November.

On 28th December over 1,000 were in Thornton Dale, and 500 were moving across moorland at Goathland (MFe). 500 in the Ewden Valley on 11th December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

In general a very moderate year with small flocks of less than 50 at many favoured localities. The largest flocks in the early months were during March, 250 at Lodge Moor on 8th, and 100 at Broomhead Hall on 21st.

A male in song near Grimwith Res. on 26th June.

The largest flocks at the year end were all during December and consisted of 300 at Wemmergill Lodge; 407 at Redmires on 18th; 500 at Cunning Corner, Rishworth on 27th, and 300 at Ringinglow on 29th.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

An immature at Easington lagoons on 1st August (NAB), and one caught and ringed at Spurn on 7th November (DAB, JC *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

In the early months all flocks reported were of less than 100, but during August three flocks held more, including 200 near Ardsley Res. on 22nd.

During the autumn and early winter six flocks of 100 to 200 occurred, plus flocks of 300 at Wentworth on 30th September, and at Carlton on 2nd October; 250 at Spurn in early November, and 350 in the Moss Valley on 21st December.

Westerly passage over Redmires Res. of 119 on 10th, and 97 on 23rd October. Southerly passage at Spurn totalled 9,310 during October and November, including 967 on 19th October.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

During the winter months flocks throughout the county were small, being generally of less than 40. Most of the larger numbers occurred during early autumn.

200 at Walmgate Stray, York on 4th September; 170 at Welwick on 6th; 145 at Flamborough on 19th; 100 each at Blacktoft Sands on 24th and Wath Ings on 29th September. Also on 29th September 300 moved east at Potteric Carr where there were 200 on 2nd October.

258 south at Spurn on 19th October.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Although well distributed during the winter months, with flocks of 40 to 60 at 15 places, the species was generally less numerous than during 1981.

Quite frequent in the breeding season in coniferous woodlands west of Scarborough, and is still increasing as a breeding species in the south-west of V.C. 63. One in song at Timble on 31st May was the only breeding season report from the Dales.

Flocks of 80 at Wentworth on 17th January, and 150 at Yateholme on 29th March.

Southerly passage at Spurn peaked at 78 on 29th September, and 106 on 9th October.

In December, 100 at Wymingbrook on 5th, and 80 at Newtondale on 9th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

200 at Tudworth Sand Quarry on 11th April was the largest flock before the autumn, but during September and October 200 to 300 were at ten localities, of which six were in the south in V.C. 63. In addition, 400 were at Birds Edge near Ingbirchworth on 15th September, and at Beighton on 24th, and 314 at Redmires Res. on 30th September.

Flock sizes in V.C. 64 were smaller than usual, the largest being of 150 at Tadcaster on 22nd August, and 200 at Cawood on 27th October.

On the coast 200 were at Flamborough during May, and 200 at Filey in September and October.

Southerly passage at Spurn had maxima of 1,910 on 29th September, and 1,556 on 3rd October.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

A few near the coast and good numbers along the Humber in the early months included, in January, 11 at Atwick on 13th; 30 at Spurn on 23rd; 150 at Patrington Haven on 17th and 53 at Sunk Island on 24th.

Two near Penistone on 8th February.

The largest flock noted returning to the breeding areas in March and April was of 60 near Cragg Vale.

Two pairs on Hatfield Moors on 22nd and 23rd April.

Three on Stony Marl Moor in V.C. 62 on 13th July.

Breeding numbers in V.C. 64 believed to be moderate, with flocks in September of 130 at Duck Street on 4th; 70 at Rainscar on 18th; 100 at Sandford, and 50 at Grimwith Res. on 29th.

In V.C. 63, 150 at Broadstones on 28th August; 240 at Scammonden on 19th September, and 267 at Ringstone Edge on 30th. Later, five were at Langsett on 7th November, and 20 at Pugney's G.P. on 28th November.

30 at Keld on 18th July was the only report from V.C. 65.

100 at Flamborough on 8th October, and at Spurn on 9th and 11th; and 42 at Sunk Island on 17th October. 49 at Spurn on 30th November.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Reported as becoming scarcer in V.C. 64, as well as V.C. 61, and also in parts of V.C. 63, although flocks in the Sheffield area are still of reasonable numbers.

The largest spring flock was of 63 at Parlington Park on 9th April.

Light southerly passage at Spurn, with a peak of 76 on 9th October.

60 at Coneygarth in late September; 70 at Wentworth on 30th, when 90 flew south-west over Redmires Res. 70 at Canklow Wood on 8th October; 150 at Dacre Banks on 10th, and 55 at Ewden on 24th. 70 at Wath Ings on 13th November, and 80 at Gleadless on 30th. During December, 135 at Howell Wood on 4th; 70 at Rivelin on 5th; 115 at Wymingbrook on 10th; 50 at Eccup Res. on 12th, and 90 at Fairburn Ings on 21st.

Birds showing characteristics of Mealy Redpoll, *C.f. flammea*, in spring at Spurn from 16th to 22nd March, and at Flamborough on 9th and 16th May. The rest were during the last three months, with singles at Blacktoft Sands, Beighton, Ingbirchworth and Fairburn Ings; one to two at Flamborough between 10th October and 13th November, with 22 on 13th October; one to two at Spurn between 15th October and 6th November, and one from 11th December; two at York University on 17th December, and five at Wath Ings on 21st.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*

One in Holling Dale Plantation on 30th October (DHur).

Still under consideration by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

V.C. 61: Singles at two places in the early months, and one to three at four places later in the year, and six at Hornsea Mere on 6th October.

V.C. 62: Few reported from the forest strongholds of the North Yorkshire Moors, apart from four at Cropton on 12th August; six at Wykeham on 23rd October, and a total of 152 at three locations in Dalby Forest on 30th December. 30 at Yearsley in November and December.

V.C. 63: In the south-west at least 50 pairs bred at one locality, and small numbers of pairs bred in several other plantations. A family party of seven in Howell Wood on 28th May. 45 at Holling Dale on 30th October; 28 at Langsett on 30th October, and 40 on 11th December. 60 to 70 near Howden Res. on the Yorkshire–Derbyshire border on 7th November, and good numbers there to the year-end. 16 at Wymingbrook during December. One to five at up to ten other localities.

V.C. 64: Reports from ten sites covering all months. 30 at Gouthwaite Res. on 6th February; 14 on 23rd September, and 18 at Lindley Res. from 2nd to 31st December. A pair at Timble on 31st May.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

An interesting autumn invasion by this species which also occurred in adjacent counties of Lincolnshire and Derbyshire, as well as Norfolk, and certain Scottish Islands, particularly in the Shetlands.

One caught at the Warren at Spurn on 11th October was found dead on 12th, and the specimen is now in the collection of J. R. Mather.

At Holling Dale Plantation, two males on 30th October, and 5th November; seven males and three females on 11th November; one male and three females on 13th; eight males and four females on 1st December, and six males and two females on 6th (DHur *et al*).

At Wyming Brook, Rivelin Valley, up to 14 between 31st October and 22nd December, with about equal numbers of males and females (PAA *et al*).

In woodlands around Howden Reservoir on the Derbyshire–Yorkshire border, seven on 30th October; up to 25 by 15th November, with 24 remaining to the year end, mainly in Derbyshire, but occasionally some crossing the border into Yorkshire (DHur *et al*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Two males at Lindley Res. from 25th November to 30th December (PJC).

Not accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Addition to the 1962 Report: At Spurn on 11th October, a male and a female, both first-year, caught and ringed.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

At Spurn, a first year male in song on 29th May (DP, PS, JMT).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

No apparent change in status.

A total of 41 in the Hall Dike valley near Huddersfield on 14th and 15th November, and flocks of 20 at Hornsea Mere on 4th February; Sprotbrough Flash on 4th December, and Skipwith Common on 30th December.

Individuals apparently of the Northern race, *P.p. pyrrhula*, at Flamborough on 24th March, 16th and 28th October, and 13th November.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

V.C. 61: Singles at Fulford Golf Course on 9th January, and at Skipwith Common on 10th. Two at Howsham Wood on 8th February. Two over Naburn S.W. on 3rd April; one at Walmgate Stray on 5th, and three at Fulford Golf Course on 8th.

V.C. 62: One at Wiganthorpe on 20th January, and four on 24th. One in Commondale on 19th February; ten on 23rd, and a pair on 22nd April (MC). Singles at York University on 2nd April, and Lady Edith's Drive, Scarborough on 9th May. At Bridestones Reserve on 29th December, at least five and possibly up to 13 (SC).

V.C. 63: Singles during January at Newington, Firbeck Park and Sprotbrough Flash, and three at Newton Farm near Sprotbrough on 16th. Recorded from the Sprotbrough and Newton areas from March to August, and October to December, including 14 on 25th March; 12 on 2nd April; up to eight during June, including three juveniles; but only one to two later in the year. Also in the Doncaster area, one to two during the spring at Roche Abbey, Wilsic, Frickley Park, Melton Wood, Firbeck Park and Almholme. One at Warmsworth on 7th December.

Recorded in rural areas around Sheffield, and nesting pairs occurred at one locality in a suburban woodland. An adult and juvenile at Stainborough on 30th June, and two on 27th December, and one at Rockley on 26th December.

V.C. 64: A maximum of 65 in the Studley Royal area on 9th January. Regularly at Bishop Monkton throughout the year, and also reported from Knaresborough. Present at Allerton Park and Bishop Wood during May. At Fairburn Ings, singles almost daily in January; on five dates in February and March; up to four in April and May; one to two from 5th September onwards, and six overhead on 31st October.

An apparent steady increase in the county.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

A rather poor year.

At Spurn two on 7th January; 11 overhead on 23rd January, and singles on five other dates up to the last on 1st May. 11 at Kilnsea on 9th January, and nine on 23rd (NAB). Flamborough had two on 6th January; ten on 9th; four on 16th; two on 17th (PAL, GED), singles on 30th January and 7th February, and seven on 10th April (DIMW). Singles at Filey Brigg on 27th February and 21st March. 11 at Atwick on 13th January (WFC). Two at Skeffling on 22nd February (SML).

Two at Jackson's Bay on 10th January (RCM), and one at Cornelian Bay on 17th (PAD).

One at Easington on 2nd October, and ten at Flamborough on 6th. Singles at Spurn on ten dates from 9th October to 30th December, plus two on 15th and 20th December, and southerly passage on eight dates from 19th October (six) to 20th November (one).

Inland, one flying west over Myers Grove School, Sheffield on 13th October (DH).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Apart from 25 at Filey on 2nd January (BS & SP), and 46 at Fraisthorpe on 22nd January (WFC), most of those in the early months were in the Spurn area.

At Spurn, 20 to 75 in January; 12 to 59 in February; lower figures in March to 21st, apart from 47 on 13th; then singles on 23rd and 31st, and one on 13th June. 60 at Kilnsea on 4th January; 50

on 16th, and 45 at Easington lagoons on 13th February (NAB, GED), would be from the same flock. Six at Cherry Cob on 31st January.

Two at Cloughton Cliff on 21st September and one at Spurn on 25th, with the first autumn bird for Flamborough on 28th.

Few during October including a maximum of five at Spurn, where there was only light southerly passage.

The highest numbers at most localities occurred during November, with 40 at Scalby Mills on 10th; 14 at Filey on 13th; 42 on 14th, and 24 on 20th; 30 at Flamborough on 5th and 35 on 13th; 55 at Spurn on 20th, and 14 on 29th. Heavier southerly passage at Spurn during November, with 32 on 9th; 200 in one flock on 13th; 15 on 14th, and 35 on 19th.

In December, Spurn had up to 18 regularly, and 40 on 27th; Filey had 27 on 18th, and 44 during the latter part of the month, and nine were at Barmston on 11th (JMD).

Away from the coast, one at Broomhill Flash on 13th November; six on Spaunton Moor on 27th, and seven at Helwith Bridge Moss on 29th November; singles at Thrybergh on 4th and 13th December, and three at Bransdale on 27th December. Two flew west over Fairburn Ings on 17th December.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

During January, 100 at Ewden on 16th, and on Hatfield Moors; 60 at Ulley Res. on 20th, and 80 at Dunnington Common on 22nd. During February, 50 between Atwick and Bewholme, and at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 8th; 70 at Hagg Bridge, and 100 at Howden Clough (V.C. 64) on 11th; and during April, 100 again on Hatfield Moors, and 120 at Withens Clough, Halifax on 11th.

100 at Thrybergh Res. on 10th October, and 220 at Flamborough on 23rd. 100 on Hatfield Moors in October and November. 200 in the Upper Moss Valley on 19th, and 80 at Pulfin Bog on 27th November.

50 at Carlton Marsh on 3rd December; 100 at Bishop Monkton on 12th; 80 at Rolston on 14th; 80 at Thrybergh Banks on 23rd, and 100 at Skipwith Common on 27th; and up to 80 at Spurn after 10th December.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

During the spring, singles at Flamborough on 14th and 22nd May (PAL), and at Kilnsea on 13th June (NAB, JMT).

One at Spurn on 9th October; two on 10th and 11th; singles on 12th, 16th, 17th, and 19th to 21st October, and two on 18th. One at Flamborough on 12th and 13th October.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

One at Flamborough on 13th October (PAL).
Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.
One at Spurn from 20th to 22nd October (SHH, STR, SJR).
Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.
Fourth and fifth records for the county.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

An immature at Flamborough on 5th September (PAL, DIMW).
Second record for the county.
Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

50 at Filey on 6th January, and 85 at Kilnsea on 20th February.

60 singing males at Hornsea Mere on 16th May. Breeding pairs numbered 120 at Blacktoft Sands; 43 at Fairburn Ings, and 40 at Mickletown Ings, showing a reduction on 1981 numbers at all three places.

45 at Haverfield Ponds on 17th October, and 100 roosting at Monkton on 23rd. 250 at Blacktoft Sands on 15th December.

1,100 south at Spurn during the autumn, including 162 on 3rd October.

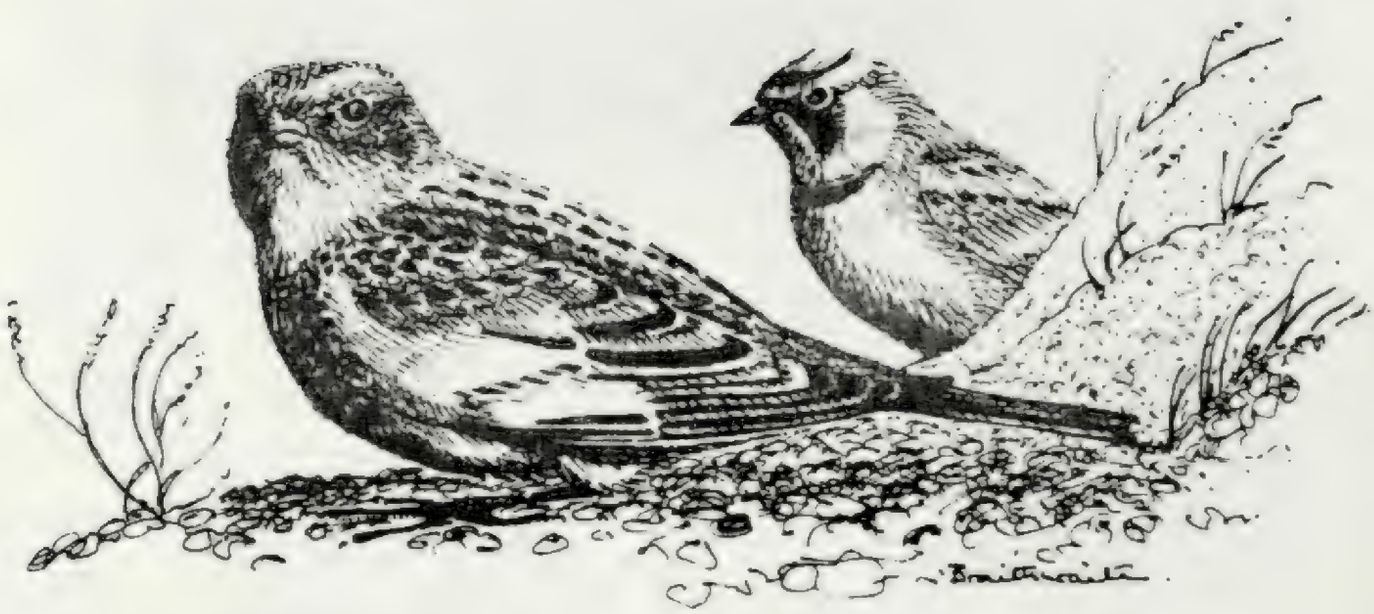
Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

150 at Spurn on 1st January and 120 at Kilnsea on 2nd, but no more than 40 at Spurn later in January. 120 at Stone Creek on 24th January. A large flock of up to 350 at Atwick in the early months (WFC). 80 at Cayton on 25th January, and 200 at Filey on 6th.

120 at Patrington Haven, and 130 at Thorngumbald on 14th February, and 80 at Harthill Res. on 19th.

The roost at Wath Ings had 70 on 29th March, and 3rd April; 76 on 28th October, and 78 on 13th November.

Monthly maxima at Spurn, from October to December, of 70 on 19th; 120 on 2nd, and 210 on 31st, respectively. 100 at Rolston on 14th December, and 73 at Fairburn Ings on 31st December.



Snow Bunting and Shore Lark D. Braithwaite

Escaped Birds

Birds in this section are those which have obviously escaped from captivity. Others, such as species of wildfowl which may or may not be of wild origin, are included in the Classified List with the appropriate proviso.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*
One at Sandall Park on 23rd February; one over Pool on 7th March.

Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus*
One at Hornsea Mere from 14th July to 29th August.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
Two at Castle Howard in mid-November.

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*
Two at Wheldrake Ings from 17th to 26th August.

New Zealand Shelduck *Tadorna variegata*
One at Faxfleet on 27th August.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*
One in Frickley Park on 10th October.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*
Drakes at Harewood Park on 24th January, and at Fairburn Ings on 24th and 25th April, and 17th May. One at Hay-a-Park from 12th September onwards, and a pair at Cleasby G.P. on 25th September.

Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca*
One at Northstead Lake, Scarborough from 25th to 27th January, and at Seamer G.P. on 27th April.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*
One at Anchor Plain on 8th May, and one near Melbourne from September to the year-end.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*
Singles at Sprotbrough Flash on 31st January; over Slaid Hill, Leeds on 29th July and at Wath Ings on 12th September.

Pekin Robin *Leiothrix lutea*
One at Spurn from 5th to 30th June.

Zebra Finch *Poephila guttata*
One at Sprotbrough Flash on 6th September.

Sudan Golden Sparrow *Passer luteus*
One at Spurn from 17th to 25th May.

The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy, contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, or forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should be the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, and should include the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, previous experience of the species etc. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver
Red-necked Grebe
Slavonian Grebe
Black-necked Grebe
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Storm Petrel
Leach's Petrel
Purple Heron
White Stork
Spoonbill
Bean Goose
Red-crested Pochard
Ferruginous Duck
Smew
Honey Buzzard
Red Kite
Goshawk
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Hobby
Spotted Crake
Stone Curlew
Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Grey Phalarope
Pomarine Skua
Long-tailed Skua
Mediterranean Gull
Iceland Gull
Sabine's Gull
Roseate Tern
Black Guillemot
Woodlark
Richard's Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Bluethroat
Cetti's Warbler
Savi's Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Barred Warbler
Yellow-browed Warbler
Firecrest
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Golden Oriole
Chough
Raven
Serin
Scarlet Rosefinch
Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting

British Birds Rarities

All rarities requiring submission to the British Birds Rarities Committee, last listed in *British Birds*, Vol. 67, 1974, pages 347–8.

Races

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

The Vice-Counties

The Reports Committee consider that an explanation of the origin of the vice-county system used by the YNU Ornithological Section for recording purposes would be of value to contributors to the annual reports.

The Watsonian vice-county system dates from 1852 when Hewett Cotterell Watson, a noted English amateur botanist, at the end of the third volume of his *Cybele Britannica* gave a list of 38 sub-provinces and 112 vice-counties into which he proposed to divide the British Isles. The object of the vice-county system was to provide a set of unit areas more equal in dimensions than the counties, whose inequality in size was most inconvenient for botanical recording. The principle of his scheme was to divide the larger counties into two or more vice-counties, and to merge the smallest counties into larger neighbours. This compromise achieved areas of roughly equal biological importance, without sacrificing the county system absolutely. Yorkshire was divided into five vice-counties.

Outline maps for each of the Yorkshire vice-counties are included below, and these also illustrate the effects of the political boundary changes of 1974. Four new counties were created, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside, and in addition five separate areas on the western and northern boundaries of the old county, each became part of adjacent new counties. The latter change has led to the gradual loss of records for those areas, which by agreement are now covered by neighbouring organizations.

From 1945 the YNU Ornithological Section had used the Ridings as the basis for recording areas, but in 1960 adopted the vice-county system and appointed a recorder for each of the five areas.

Vice-County 61 comprises the old East Riding, being bounded on the south and west by the Rivers Humber and Ouse, and on the north by the A166 from York to Stamford Bridge, and then the River Derwent and River Hertford to the coast just north of Filey. Much of this vice-county is now in the northern part of Humberside, and the remainder is in North Yorkshire.

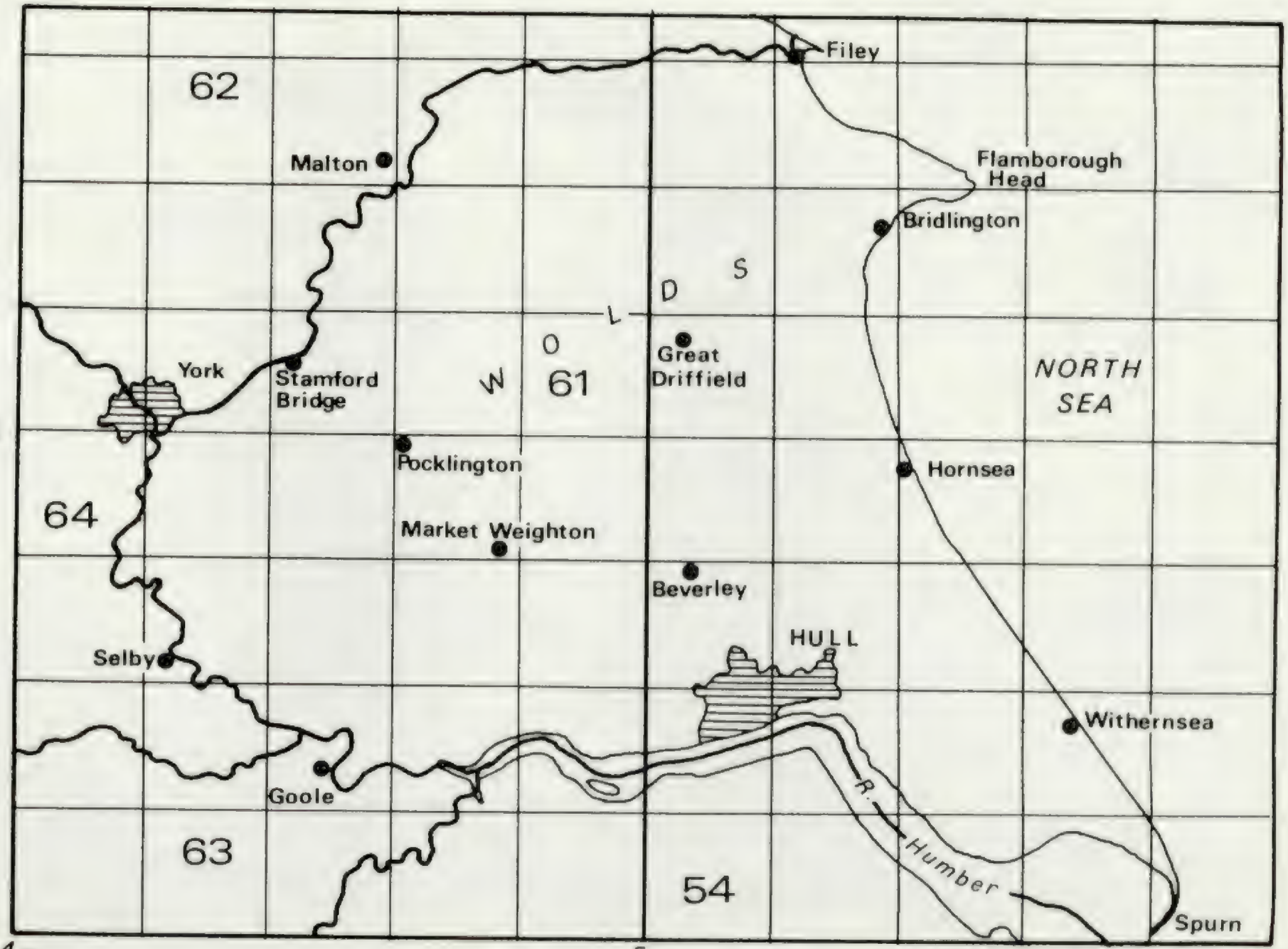
Vice-County 62 has V.C. 61 on its southern boundary, and on the west in the Vale of York the boundary follows the Rivers Swale and Wiske to the southernmost point of the Durham boundary east of Beverley Wood. The whole of this vice-county is now in North Yorkshire, apart from an area in the north around Middlesbrough, Guisborough and Saltburn which is now in Cleveland. The latter is in the recording area of the Teesmouth Bird Club, and records from there were last included in the 1973 report.

Vice-County 63 is separated from V.C. 64 to the north by the Leeds and Liverpool canal, west of Leeds, and the River Aire east of Leeds. The whole of South Yorkshire; the southern three-quarters of West Yorkshire, and parts of Humberside and North Yorkshire are within its boundaries. A small area west of Huddersfield is now in Greater Manchester, and records from there have not been included since 1974.

Vice-County 64 is bounded on the north by the former boundary between the North and West Ridings. This was basically the watershed between the Rivers Nidd and Wharfe to the south, and the River Ure to the north, the boundary being deflected at its western end so as to pass over Whernside to the south-eastern angle of Westmorland. The area including Barnoldswick, Gisburn and eastern parts of the Forest of Bowland is now in Lancashire and records for this area last appeared in the 1981 report.

Vice-County 65 has the old county boundary to the north and west, and the other boundaries are described above. The area around Dentdale and Sedbergh is now part of Cumbria, and that of Upper Teesdale is now part of Durham, and records for these areas last appeared in the 1980 report.

The Reports Committee are indebted to Colin S. Shields for preparing the vice-county maps.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Malton
Filey
Flamborough Head
Bridlington
W O L D S
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Great Driffield
NORTH SEA
York
Stamford Bridge
Pocklington
Hornsea
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Market Weighton
Beverley
HULL
Selby
Withernsea
Goole
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R. Humber
Spurn
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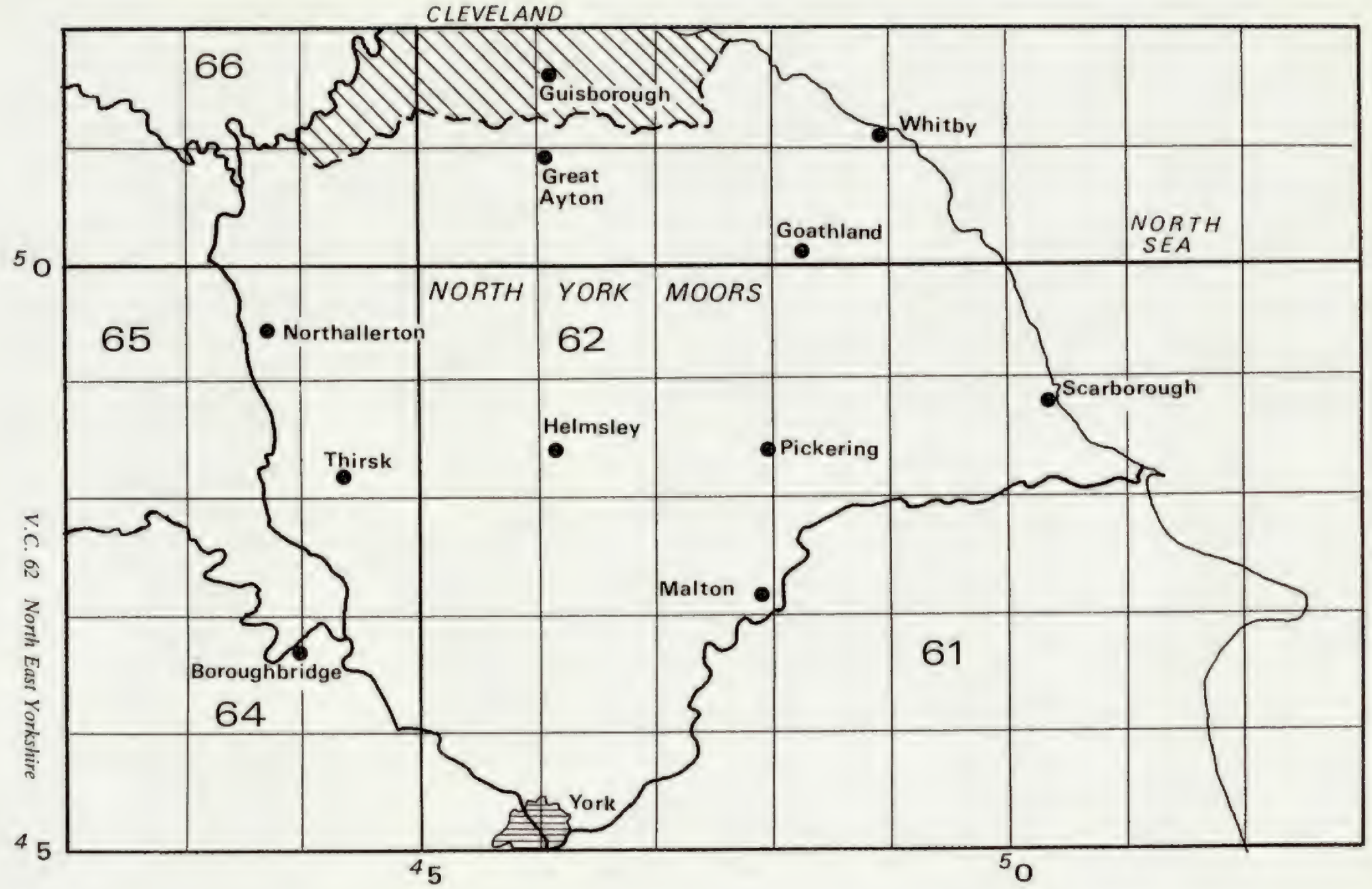
CLEVELAND
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Guisborough
Whitby
Great Ayton
Goathland
NORTH SEA
NORTH YORK MOORS
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Northallerton
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Scarborough
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Thirsk
Malton
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Boroughbridge
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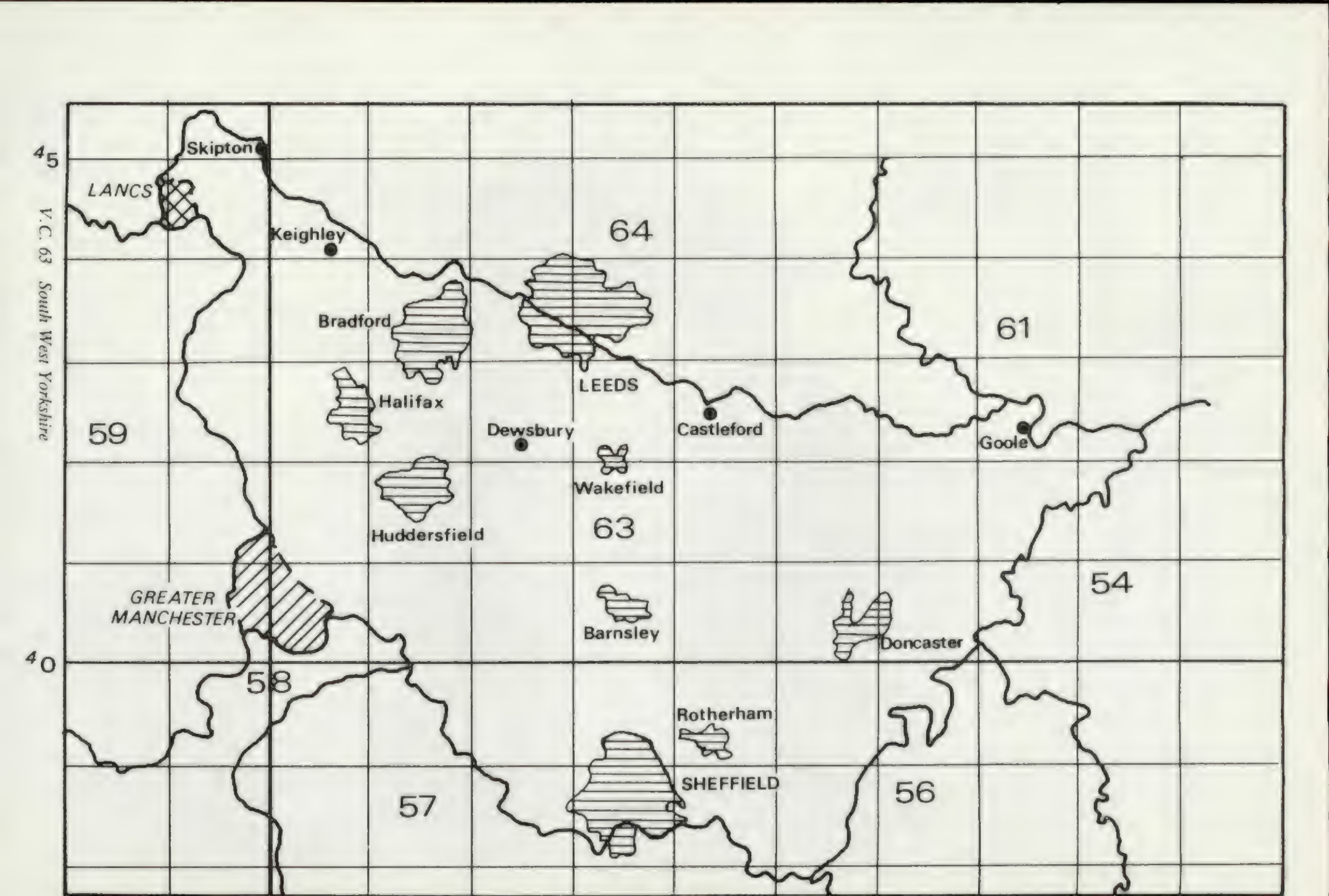
V.C. 62 North East Yorkshire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LEEDS
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Dewsbury
Castleford
Goole
Wakefield
Huddersfield
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GREATER MANCHESTER
Barnsley
Doncaster
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Rotherham
SHEFFIELD
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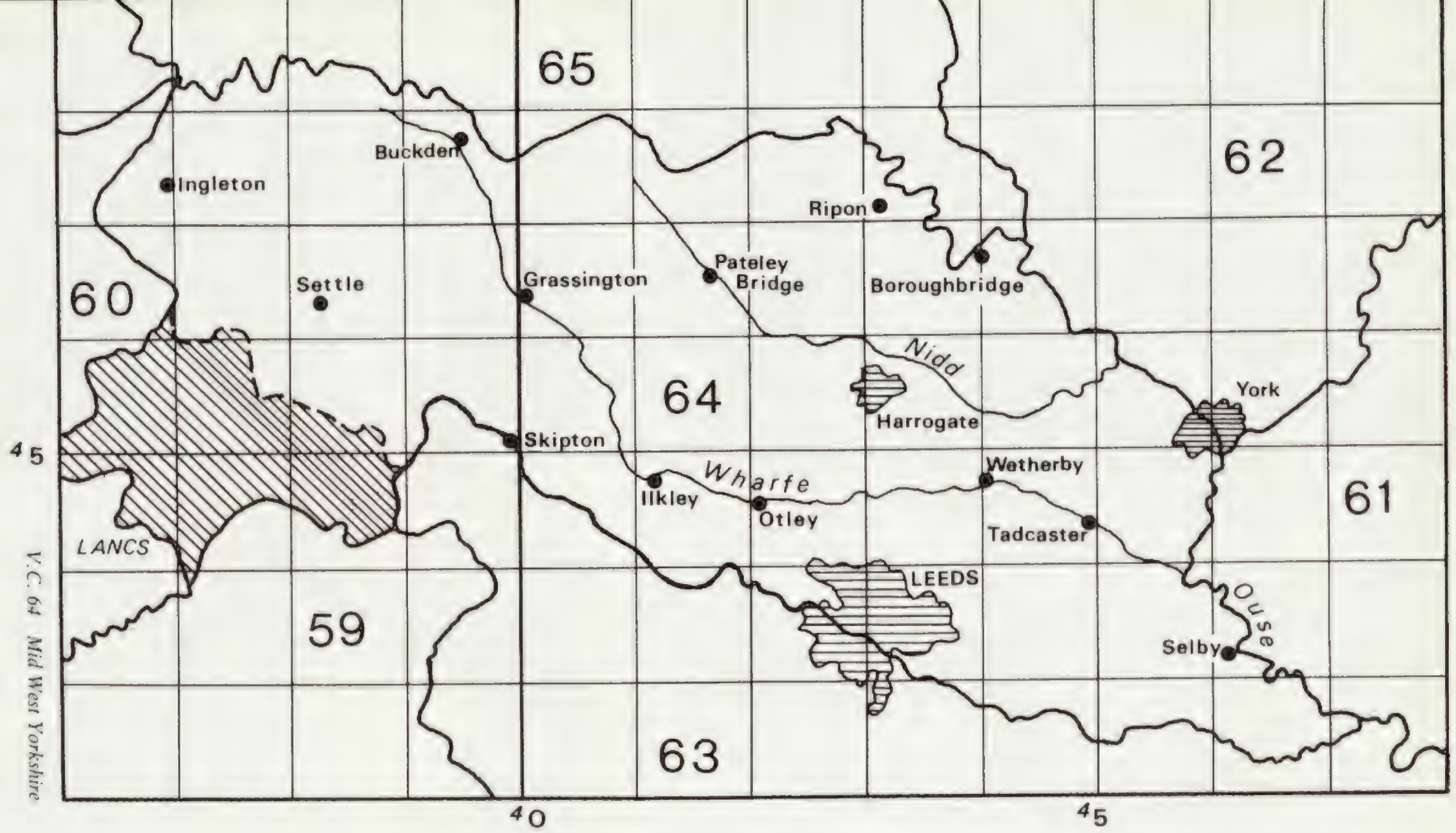
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Boroughbridge
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Harrogate
Skipton
Wharfe
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Otley
Tadcaster
LANCS
LEEDS
Ouse
Selby
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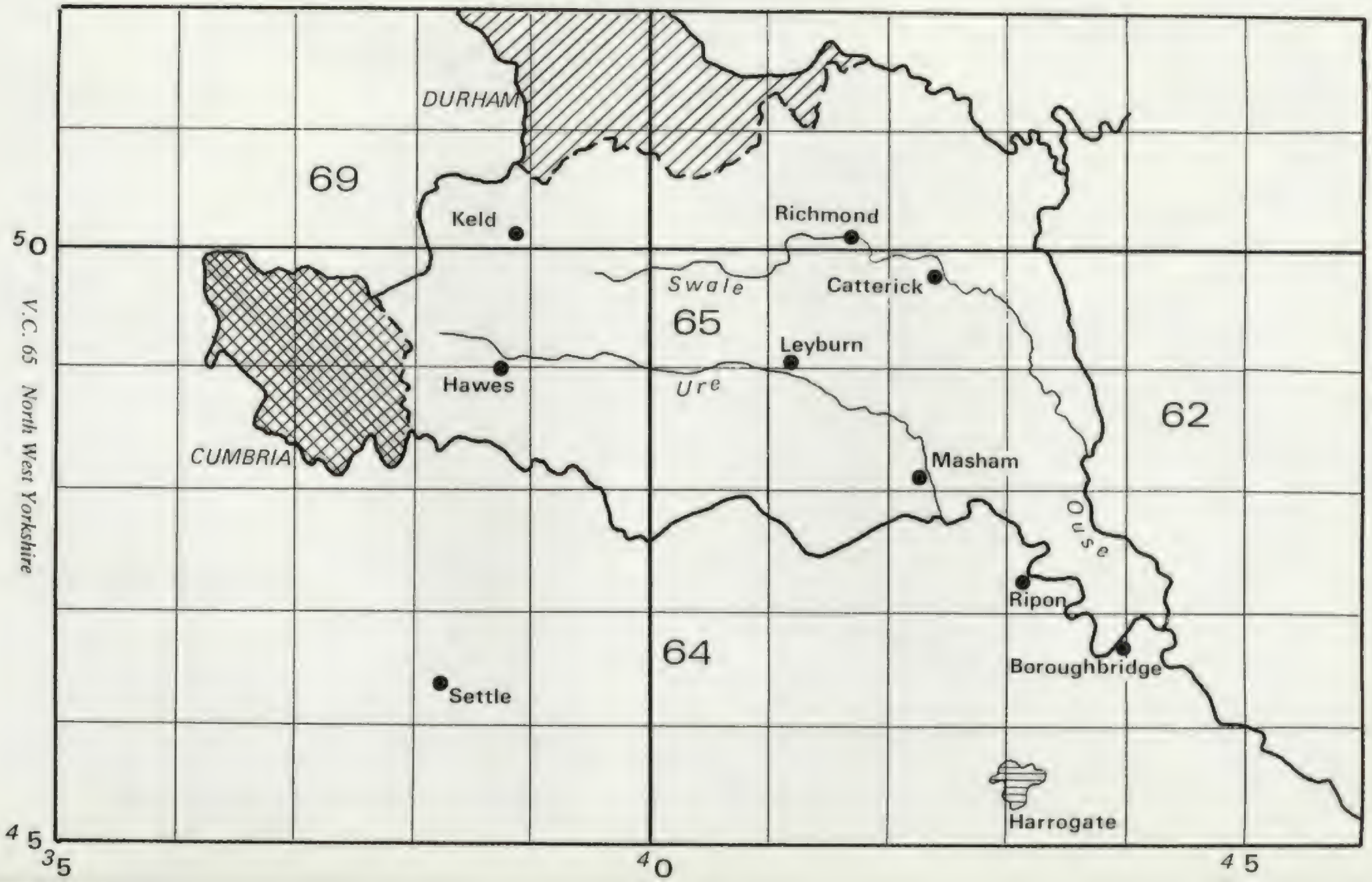
V.C. 64 Mid West Yorkshire


DURHAM
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Keld
Richmond
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Swale
Catterick
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Leyburn
Hawes
Ure
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CUMBRIA
Masham
Ouse
Ripon
64
Boroughbridge
Settle
Harrogate
V.C. 65 North West Yorkshire
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45

Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1982 have been received, and those readers requiring more detailed information on the areas concerned should consult these.

V.C. 61: *Filey Brigg Ornithological Group* — Classified List.
Spurn Bird Observatory — Classified List, Ringing Report and Migration summary.

V.C. 61, 62 and 64: *York Ornithological Club* — Classified List.

V.C. 63: *Barnsley Area Bird Report* 1981/1982 — Classified List, Ringing Report and notes on rare visitors.
Doncaster and District Ornithological Society — Classified List and Ringing Report.
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club — Classified List, Ringing Report and Fieldfares in the Huddersfield area.
Sheffield Bird Study Group — Classified List.
Wakefield Naturalists' Society — Classified List and Wintersett Ringing Report.

V.C. 64: *Bradford Naturalists' Society* — Classified List.
Castleford and District Naturalists' Society — Classified List.
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve — Classified List.
Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society — Classified List.
Knaresborough Ringing Station — Classified List and Ringing Report.
Leeds Birdwatchers' Club — Classified List.
Settle Bird Club — Classified List.

Classified Lists were received from: Bempton Cliffs, Blacktoft Sands, Flamborough Head, Halifax Scientific Society, Hornsea Mere, Howell Wood, Humber Wildfowl Refuge, Knostrop, Mickletown Ings, Nostell Estate, Pugney's Gravel Pit, Scarborough Field Naturalists' Society, Thrybergh Reservoir, Tophill Low Reservoir, Wath Ings and Whitton Sands. *The Lapwing*, the journal of the Doncaster and District Ornithological Society, includes ornithological papers and notes published in the *Naturalist* between 1951 and 1982 relating to the Doncaster area.

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers, and many others who sent in records to their local societies, is very much appreciated.

N. W. Addey; G. E. Alderson; K. J. Allison; A. M. Allport; C. E. Andrassey; R. H. Appleby; A. Archer; P. A. Ardron; B. Armitage; J. S. Armitage; Miss J. E. Atkinson; K. Bannister; B. Banson; J. S. Barclay; J. Barker; T. Barker; B. Bates; T. Baxendale; J. B. Baxter; D. N. Beaumont; J. Beaumont; M. A. Beevers; N. A. Bell; P. D. Bell; P. T. Bell; I. Beverage; C. Biltcliffe; J. Birch; P. Bishop; E. B. Blake; A. G. Blunt; M. E. Blunt; A. Botterill; K. Bower; D. A. Boyd; T. Boyer; S. Boyes; P. Bradley; D. Braithwaite; S. Buckle; H. O. Bunce; H. P. R. Bury; A. S. Butler; B. Caffrey; S. Callaghan; T. Cantwell; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr (Barnsley); G. Carr (Wakefield); D. Carroll; I. Carter; N. Carter; G. A. Cartwright; G. P. Catley; J. M. Cattle; A. Cawthraw; M. Chadwick; S. Channell; A. Chapman; S. Chippendale; W. A. Clarke; K. Clarkson; T. M. Clegg; S. Cochran; J. D. Coldwell; A. J. Cooper; F. R. Cooper; I. Corbett; M. Corner; L. Cornthwaite; M. Coverdale; R. P. Council; C. Craig; D. B. Craig; D. I. Crawshaw; K. R. Crookes; P. Crooks; J. Cudworth; M. Cunningham; P. Cunningham; W. F. Curtis; D. B. Cutts; J. E. Dale; J. M. Dale; Mrs S. M. Dale; L. Degnam; A. Deighton; A. Dennison; J. Dennison; K. Denny; S. Denny; M. L. Denton; A. Devitt; T. E. Dixon; A. Dobbs; G. E. Dobbs; P. A. Doherty; P. Dove; D. Drew; W. Dudhill; P. J. Dunn; W. G. Dye; T. A. Ede; T. M. England; B. C. Eversham; R. Evison; Miss J. Fairhurst; M. Fannon; M. Feather; C. Featherstone; G. Featherstone; B. Fendley; T. Feltham; M. G. Fenner; A. Fitchett; A. D. Flintham; G. T. Foggitt; G. W. Follows; Mrs J. M. Follows; D. Forbes; J. Forster; I. Forsyth; K. Foundation; M. Francis; P. Freeman; H. M. Frost; R. Gash; D. Giddings; P. Gill; J. A. Ginnever; D. J. Glaves; P. M. Glaves; J. Glendinning; J. Goodwin; C. Gorman; D. Gosney; W. Gott; B. Grant; A. Grieve; C. A. Mackenzie-Grieve; P. R. Griffin; M. J. Grunwell; A. Hall; A. G. Hall; L. Hall; L. Hamilton; J. Harriman; C. Harris; P. Harrison; R. C. Hart; J. C. Hartley; C. Harvatt; K. J. Hayhow; S. J. Hayhow; M. Heard; D. Herringshaw; J. Hewitt; S. Hey; J. Higgins; D. G. Hobson; T. L. Hobson; C. J. Hodgson; S. H. Holliday; S. Holliday; M. A. Hollingworth; C. Hopper; P. A. Hopper; R. N. Hopper; K. Horne; J. Hornbuckle; D. Hursthouse; P. Hutchinson; R. A. Innes; P. W. Izzard; S. L. James; C. Jarvis; A. J. Johnson; D. A. Johnson; G. Kaye; D. Kenny; S. Kenny; A. S. Kershaw; P. Kirk; R. Knight; H. C. Laidlaw; J. C. Lamplugh; P. A. Lassey; A. J. Last; J. Law; J. H. Lawton; J. Leason; G. Lee; N. Leece; P. Leonard; M. Limbert; S. M. Lister; V. A. Lister; A. Lowe; J. Lunn; K. Lynes; M. Lynes; R. Lyon; C. R. McKay; S. C. Madge; D. Manchester; E. Markham; M. Marshall; R. A. Marshall; T. Marshall; J. Martin; J. I. Martin; P. H. Mason; C. Massingham; Mrs J. Massingham; J. R. Mather; G. Megson; A. Middleton; D. Midgley; K. Moir; A. J. Molyneux; S. Morgan; A. J. Morris; P. L. Mountain; L. A. Mundy; G. Neal; C. Needham; C. Nimick; G. F. Oates; S. O'Neill; D. Owen; M. G. Oxlade; D. Page; P. A. Page; H. Parkin; R. J. Parrish; B. S. Pashby; Mrs S. Pashby; D. M. Pearce; J. M. Pearson; M. Pearson; D. E. Peck; G. Penn; B. G. Pepper; J. M. Pinder; P. Piringer; R. Platts; A. Porter; B. Porter; A. R. Potter; A. M. Pratt; R. Pratt; B. Preston; Mrs D. Preston; W. H. Priestley; D. Proctor; I. J. Proctor; M. Quinlan; R. A. Reese; J. F. Reynolds; A. Rhodes; R. J. Rhodes; K. Rich; J. B. Richards; K. Richards; Mrs K. Richards; M. G. Richardson; T. Richardson; A. Roadhouse; K. D. Robertson; C. C. Robinson; S. T. Robinson; A. Robson; S. Roebuck; S. J. Roddis; S. Rooke; A. G. Ross; I. D. Rotherham; K. Rotherham; R. Rowland; R. M. Scanlon; R. J. Scott; J. E. Seevoir; G. Sellors; N. P. Senior; A. D. Sharp; M. Sheldon; K. B. Shaw; C. S. Shields; P. Shields; B. Shorrock; D. J. Simpson; S. P. Singleton; R. Slack; C. Slater; G. Smith (Wakefield); G. Smith (York); Miss I. Smith; J. P. Smith; N. Smith; P. Smith; P. H. Smith; J. R. Smithson; D. Sneape; C. J. Sollitt; G. J. Speight; B. R. Spence; P. Spencer; D. J. Standring; B. A. Stephenson; C. R. Stephenson; E. C. Sterne; Mrs. H. R. Sterne; P. Swallow; K. Tayles; J. D. Temple; B. Townend; P. T. Treloar; J. M. Turton; R. Twigg; C. G. Varty; M. B. Vickers; A. F. G. Walker; C. Wall; Mrs D. M. Walls; D. I. M. Wallace; A. J. Wallis; A. W. Wallis; J. Ward; F. A. Wardman; A. D. Warren; K. G. Warrington; M. J. Warrington; D. R. J. Watkins; F. J. Watson; P. Watson; D. R. Waudby; J. Webb; J. R. Webster; G. R. Welch; Mrs H. J. Welch; M. Wells; R. Wells; T. Weston; V. Weston; H. J. Whitehead; F. A. W. Whitford; P. M. White; M. Whorley; M. D. Williams; R. D. R. Williams; T. J. Williams; C. Winn; J. A. Wint; P. Winter; P. B. Wordsworth; A. Winsett; J. Wozencraft; P. Wragg; A. D. Wright; G. M. Yates; P. Young.

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